MINUTES.

Reformed Presbyterian Synod

OF IRELAND.

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OF

THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD

OF IRELAND,

AT ITS

ANNUAL MEETING IN BELFAST,

JUNE, 1887.

Londonderry:

ANDREW EMERY, PRINTER AND STATIONER, CARLISLE ROAD.

1887.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD

IN IRELAND.

MDCCCLXXXVII.

SESSION I.

Belfast, Monday, 27th June, 1887. 7.30, p.m.

Constitution.

MET THE SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND; and, after a discourse from Rev. xix. 10, last clause—"The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"—was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

Ruling Elders having handed in their Commissions, a Roll was formed as follows:—

REV. JOHN LYND, MODERATOR.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY.

Roll.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
John Lynd.....	James Miller.....	Ballylaggan, B:Money*
John Ramsey, LL.B..	Josiah Lyons.....	Ballymoney
.....	.....	Cloughmills
J. D. Houston, B.A..	William Williamson..	Coleraine
Ezekiel Teaz.....	Francis Kane.....	Dervock
Isaac Thompson, LL.D	William Smith.....	Drimbolg, Portglenone
James Littlejohn	John Kennedy.....	Garvagh
John M'C. Cromie....	James Wasson.....	Kellswater, Ballymena
James Dick, M.A.....	Robert Wilson.....	Kilraughts, B:Money
.....	.....	Ringrash, Coleraine

* The name of the post-town is added where it differs from that of the congregation.

Roll.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Alexander Savage.....	Benjamin Thompson..	Ballenon, Poyntzpass*
William M'Knight.....	William Stewart	Ballylane, Markethill
John M. Littlejohn....	George Graham.....	Crievagh, Ballybay
.....	.....	Dromore, Down
.....	.....	Fairview, C:Blayney
William S. Ferguson..	.....	Grange, Stewartstown
Gawin Douglas.....	.....	Loughbrickland
Alexander S. Lyons...	Robert Sturgeon	Newry
.....	William Irwin.....	Rathfriland

EASTERN PRESBYTERY

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Samuel R. M'Neilly...	Wm. J. Galway.... *Alt.* S. Graham....	Bailiesmills, Lisburn
Alexander M. Stavely..	Robert Cameron.....	Ballyclare and Larne, [Ballyclare
J. A. Chancellor, D.D.	James Rea ..... *Alt.* Robert Long..	Belfast
Torrens Boyd.....	Samuel Douglas.....	Dromara
Matthew Hodge.....	William Donaldson ...	Killinchy
.....	William J. Kane.....	Knockbracken, Belfast
.....	James M'Gladry	Liverpool
Robert Allen.....	William Adams.....	Newtownards

WESTERN PRESBYTERY.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
.....	William O'Neill.....	Bready, Strabane
.....	.....	Convoy
Samuel Ferguson	John Longwell.....	Faughan, L:Derry
.....	John M'Cloy.....	Limavady
Robert Nevin	Joseph Hall	Londonderry
William Dick, M.A. ..	Thomas M'Farlane....	Mulvin, Strabane
R. A. M'Farlane, M.A., B.D.....	.....	Stranorlar
William Scott.....	.....	.....

N.B.—The Rev. A. M. Moore, M.A., of Geelong, Australia, and the Rev. James Martin, M.A., M.D., of Antioch, Syria, are reckoned members of the Eastern Presbytery.

Messrs. Ramsay and Teaz.

I. It was reported on behalf of the Northern Presbytery that, since last meeting, Mr. John Ramsay, LL.B., T.C.D., had been ordained as pastor of Ballymoney congregation, and Mr. Ezekiel Teaz as pastor of Dervock congregation. Their names were inserted in the Roll.

Mr. J. M. Littlejohn.

II. It was reported on behalf of the Southern Presbytery that, since last meeting, Mr. John Martin Littlejohn had been ordained as pastor of Creevagh congregation. His name was inserted in the Roll.

* The name of the post-town is added where it differs from that of the congregation.

III. It was reported on behalf of the Eastern Presbytery that Mr. Samuel Rea M'Neilly, B.A., had been ordained as pastor in the congregation of Bailiesmills. His name was inserted in the Roll. Mr. M'Neilly.

IV. It was reported that the Rev. Alexander P. Gillespie, having accepted a call from the congregation of Loanhead, Scotland, had been disjoined from the congregation of Rathfriland. His name was struck off the Roll. Mr. Gillespie.

V. It was reported by the Clerk of the Eastern Presbytery that two of its ministerial brethren (the Rev. Wm. John Maxwell, M.A., of Liverpool, and the Rev. Robert John Morrell, of Knockbracken) had requested to be loosed from their congregations. Their requests were granted, and these brethren have discontinued their connexion with the Church. Messrs. Maxwell and Morrell.

VI. It was moved by the Rev. A. M. Stavely, seconded by the Rev. James Dick, M.A., and passed by acclamation, that the Rev. Professor Chancellor, D.D., be appointed Moderator for the ensuing year. Professor Chancellor took the chair, and addressed the court. Dr. Chancellor Moderator.

VII. On the motion of the Rev. Robert Allen, seconded by the Rev. A. M. Stavely, the Rev. John M'Donald, B.D., and John M'Donald, Esq., of the Church in Scotland, being present, were invited to sit as deliberative members, and accepted the invitation. Rev. J. and Mr. J. M'Donald.

VIII. The hours of meeting were appointed to be from 10 o'clock a.m. to 3 p.m., and from 7 to 10 p.m., except to-morrow morning, when the hour for assembling was fixed for 11 o'clock a.m. Hours of Meeting.

IX. A Committee of Bills and Overtures was appointed, consisting of the Clerks of Presbyteries, the Moderator, Dr. Thompson, Rev. John Lynd (Convener), Rev. G. Douglas, Rev. W. Dick, Rev. T. Boyd—to meet to-morrow morning at 9.30, and report to Synod at 11. The same Committee to prepare and get printed an Order of Business; also to make arrangements, if possible, to have addresses on special subjects delivered during the sessions of the court. Com. of Bills.

X. A Committee to inspect the records of Presbyteries was appointed, consisting of Rev. A. Savage (Convener), Rev. John Ramsay, and Mr. James Rea. Com. on Records.

This Committee afterwards presented their Report, as follows:—

"Your Committee carefully examined the records of the Presbyteries, and found them kept correctly.

"Alexander Savage, Convener."

XI. The Clerks of Presbyteries were appointed a Committee to prepare a Scale of Preachers' Appointments—to Preachers' Appointments

Preachers' Appointments

meet to-morrow at 9.15 a.m., and report at an early date. The Scale was afterwards submitted and adopted, as follows :—

1887.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mr. Littlejohn, ...	N.	W.	S.	E.	N.
Mr. Musgrave, ...	E.	S.	N.	W.	E.
Mr. Holmes, ...	W.	N.	S.	E.	S.
Mr. Scott, ...	W.	E.	W.	N.	S.
Mr. Chancellor,.....	E.	S.	N.	W.	E.
Mr. Stewart, ...	S.	W.	E.	S.	N.
Mr. Warwick,.....	N.	E.	E.	S.	W.

Statistics.

XII. It was agreed that the Clerks of Presbyteries be required, during the sessions of Synod, to obtain correct statistics of the congregations for presentation to the court, and that a form be got printed, in order to facilitate the obtaining these statistics.

Syn. Sermon.

XIII. It was moved by the Rev. James Dick, seconded by the Rev. Torrens Boyd, and passed unanimously, that the ex-Moderator be requested to publish the sermon delivered at the opening of Synod. The Moderator said that he would comply with the request.

SESSION II.

Tuesday, 28th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod resumed, Professor Chancellor in the chair. Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. James Littlejohn.

The Roll was called, and additional commissions were handed in by elders just arrived.

The Minutes of the former sederunt were read and confirmed.

Next Meeting.

XIV. The next meeting of Synod was appointed to be held in Belfast, on the Monday after the last Sabbath of May, 1888, at 7.30 p.m.

Magazine.

XV. The Report on *The Covenanter* was presented by the Editor. It stated that the magazine was not as well supported as it should be, and that the subscriptions were not sent in with promptitude, so as to free the Editor from pecuniary pressure.

It was moved by the Rev. A. M. Stavely, seconded by the Rev. A. Savage, and passed unanimously, "That Synod, having heard the Report of the Rev. R. Nevin, as Editor of *The Covenanter*, would express their deep obligation for conducting the periodical as he has done with so much ability for the last twenty years, and would affectionately urge ministers, elders, and members of the different congregations, not only to encourage an increased

circulation, but to liquidate past debts, and secure regularity in future payments."

The following resolution, in relation to the Editor's articles on Prophecy, was unanimously adopted:—"Synod expresses its pleasure in learning that, in response to a widely-expressed desire on the part of the Church, Mr. Nevin contemplates putting into book form the articles on Prophecy which have appeared from his pen in the pages of *The Covenanter;* and pledge itself to use its best endeavours to secure a wide circulation for the work."

Sc. Deput. present.

XVI. The Rev. John P. Struthers, M.A., and Mr. Thomas Howie, ruling elder (a deputation from the Synod of Scotland), tabled their commission, and took their seats in court.

Pres. Alliance

XVII. The subject of the appointment of delegates to attend the next meeting of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, holding the Presbyterian system, was taken up, and a letter was read from the Secretary of the Alliance, asking an appointment to be made.

The Rev. John Lynd and the Rev. James Dick were appointed delegates to attend the next meeting of the Alliance, to be held in London in June, 1888.

Trustees' Report.

XVIII. James Meharg, Esq., Synod's General Treasurer, presented the Trustees' Report, with Financial Statement of the Funds of the Church.

It was moved by the Rev. A. M. Stavely, seconded by Rev. Gawin Douglas, and passed unanimously, "That the statement of the Trustees be received, and that the thanks of the Synod be given to the General Treasurer, and to the other Trustees, for their labours and faithfulness in the management of the Funds during the year."

It was moved by Rev. A. Savage, seconded by Rev. Torrens Boyd, and passed, "That a Committee, consisting of the Revs. Messrs. Savage, Lynd (Convener), Wm. Dick, and Hodge, be appointed to confer with the Trustees of Synod in regard to the choice and appointment of new Trustees."

Rep. A. M. F.

XIX. The Rev. Dr. Thompson presented the Report of the Administrators of the Aged Ministers' Fund. The Report was adopted, and is as follows:—"The special grant of £80 made by last Synod has been paid as directed. At present there are no beneficiaries on the Fund, the capital of which now stands at £3,724 17s 10d."

Proposed Magazine for Children.

XX. A proposal to start a magazine for the children of the Church, and of Sabbath-schools conducted by the Church, which had been considered with approval by the Scotch Synod, was brought before the court by the Rev. John M'Donald, B.D., and the Rev. J. P. Struthers, M.A., who gave details of the steps which had been taken in

Scotland in the furtherance of the project, and asked the Synod to co-operate in starting and maintaining such a magazine.

It was moved by Dr. Thompson, seconded by Rev. J. Dick, and passed, "That Synod regard with approbation the proposal of the Synod of the Church in Scotland to originate such a magazine for the young, and that a Committee be appointed to confer with the Committee appointed by our brethren in Scotland and arrange details."

The Committee was appointed, consisting of the Moderator, Rev. Samuel Ferguson, B.A., Rev. Gawin Douglas, Rev. John Ramsay, LL.B., and Rev. James Dick, M.A., (Convener).

SESSION III.

Tuesday, 28th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

The Synod resumed, Professor Chancellor in the chair. The Rev. John M'Donald conducted devotional exercises.

The minutes of the former sederunt were read and confirmed.

Rep. on Code. XXI. The Rev. J. Dick presented the Report of the Committee on the Code of Discipline, and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson, and passed.

Report of Committee on Code of Discipline.

"The Committee on the Code of Discipline report that they held one meeting during the year, and that they divided the work of recasting or revising the Code into five parts, assigning one part to each member of committee. They are glad to be able to report that some substantial progress has been made. They had hoped to be able to lay the whole work in an amended form before the present Synod, but this they cannot now do, as they have not had an opportunity of going over the different portions together. In these circumstances they ask to be reappointed, that they may unitedly revise each separate portion, and try to have the Revised Code printed, and in the hands of members of Synod in the autumn. In this way they expect that Synod may be able shortly to have it adopted as the Church's Authorised Book of Discipline.

"Respectfully submitted.

"James Dick, Convener."

Sc. Deput. heard. XXII. The deputation from the Scotch Synod—the Rev. J. P. Struthers, M.A., and Mr. Thomas Howie, Ruling Elder—was introduced by the Rev. John Lynd. Mr. Howie first addressed the Court, and was followed by Mr. Struthers. At the close of their addresses the following

resolution, moved by the Rev. A. M. Lyons, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Thompson, was unanimously passed :— "That the Court has heard with great satisfaction the very stirring, interesting, and eloquent addresses just delivered by the esteemed delegates from the sister Church of Scotland ; and has pleasure in reassuring their brethren of its continued sympathy with the Church they represent. Synod also request their brethren to hand their M.SS to the Editor of *The Covenanter*, to be published in the magazine."

The Moderator addressed the deputies according to the terms of the resolution, and conveyed through them the cordial greetings of the Synod to the Church in Scotland.

The Moderator, Dr. Thompson, and the Rev. John Ramsay, were appointed a deputation to the Scotch Synod next year.

XXIII. The Colonial Mission Report was presented by the Rev. Samuel Ferguson, B.A., the interim secretary. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. Gawin Douglas, seconded by Rev. Robert Allen, and passed unanimously. It was agreed to make, out of the funds of the Mission, a grant of £15 to Mr. Moore, to enable him to visit outlying districts in the Australian colonies, for the purpose of preaching the Gospel, and holding fellowship with scattered members of the Church. The Report follows :— Rep. Colonial Mission. Grant.

Colonial Mission Report.

In presenting the Annual Report on behalf of the Colonial Mission, there is a singular dearth of anything new or even interesting with regard to the history or operations of the Mission. As Commission directed, circulars were issued at the usual time, and in response thereto funds amounting altogether to £70 6s 2d have been received. During the year the usual subsidy has been forwarded to the brethren who labour in the North American Colonies, while to Mr. Moore, in the Australian field, the wonted payment has been made. In Canada, you are aware, the American Church has the superintendence of the work. From time to time ministers and probationers are sent north from the United States, so that the different stations are regularly supplied with ordinances. One ordination has taken place during the the year, that of Mr. Thomas Paton at Barnesville. It is hoped that the mantle of the worthy men who have gone before him in that corner of the vineyard may rest upon him. The migratory habits of many of the Canadian colonists renders work among them rather disappointing. But who can tell ? The seed sown in weakness may, and we believe shall, in God's good time, bear fruit to the glory

Funds and Payments. Canada.

Geelong. of Him whom we would honour. From Geelong, in Australia, where our esteemed brother, Rev. A. M. Moore, has laboured all alone so long and so faithfully, we learn that the candlestick has not been removed out of its place. The little congregation, despite the ravages of death, the disheartening influence of desertion, and the all-absorbing race for riches, remains steadfast; and, while our brother bewails his isolation, he continues to be hopeful. During the year Mr. Moore visited families residing in the Goulburn Valley, and while there preached in the house of Mr. M'Gill to a goodly number hastily convened on a week evening. Two Sabbaths were spent preaching in the districts of Yackandandah and Kugumyah. These places are situated about 250 miles from Geelong. Thus we learn that, though discouraged at times, our missionary in Australia is by no means idle. At the conclusion of his Annual Report Mr. Moore casts another wistful look to the home Church, and asks anew that assistance shall be sent to him, in the form of an additional labourer or labourers. How long shall we stop our ears to the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us?" The Australian field presents many attractions to a qualified man. The language is our own, the people are our kindred, it is free from the over competition of our own country, and a little prayerful perseverance seems certain to be crowned with success. We cannot afford to be careless on this subject. Every year valuable and hopeful members emigrate from our congregations, and we shall be chargeable with gross neglect if we do not try to follow them with Gospel ordinances, and so assist and encourage them to erect their Bethels and remember the God of their fathers. The temptations presented to emigrants are many and serious. The restraints of home are thrown off; the masses are more lapsed, more defiant, and gain seems to be the one thing needful. Shall we leave those we love untended in far-off lands. Truly—

Duty of Church.

It is not for man to trifle; life is brief, and sin is here.

The Church should arise in the dignity and energy of Christian manhood, and gather again within her sheltering bulwarks our distant brethren. Infidelity driven from the domain of science, fastens its talons in the lapsed masses at home and abroad, and directing attention to them says:—If Christianity be what it pretends, why has it not effected an entrance here, and proved itself a regenerating influence? It is for us as a Church, and as individuals, to wipe out that blot from our escutcheon, and in humble reliance upon promised grace and strength, to preach the Gospel to every creature, and to realize to its full extent the Divine utterance, "The field is the world."

Motives.

Our [illegible] may be weak, God can make them strong; our hopes [illegible] be darkened, Jehovah, whom we serve, can brighten them. Our Church may be despised, but is not this its highest honour, even to be fellow-labourers with God? It is said of Judson, who had laboured many years in Burmah, without making a single convert, that in writing home he spoke of the prospects of Christianity in that country as being "bright as the promises of God." So would we say of our Colonial Mission. The God who has promised is faithful; it is ours to labour and to wait; soon, yes very soon, we are persuaded the day shall break and the shadows flee away. Let us hear the spirit as He says, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days." Rep. Colonial Mission.

Respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL FERGUSON.

XXIV. It was moved by the Rev. A. M. Stavely, and seconded by the Rev. James Littlejohn, that the Rev. Samuel Ferguson, B.A., be appointed permanent secretary of this Colonial Mission. Passed unanimously. Rev. S. Ferguson Col. Sec.

It was moved by Rev. John Lynd, seconded by Dr. Thompson, and passed, that the Committee of the Colonial Mission be reappointed, with the names of Rev. Ezekiel Teaz, and Rev. A. M. Stavely added. Col. Com.

XXV. The Rev. John Lynd presented the Report of the Committee appointed to confer with the Synod's Trustees, and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Dr. Thompson, and passed. Rep. on Trustees.

The Report is as follows:—"Your Committee respectfully report that there are two vacancies on the Board of Synod's Trustees, and recommend that these vacancies be filled at the present meeting of Synod.

"J. LYND, Convener."

SESSION IV.

Wednesday, 29th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

Synod resumed, Dr. Chancellor in the chair. The Rev. Ezekiel Teaz conducted devotional exercises. The minutes of the former sederunt were read and confirmed.

XXVI. The Synod proceeded to elect two additional trustees, and as the result of a poll which was taken by means of a balloting paper, William Wallace Houston, Esq., Belfast, and Thomas Henry, Esq., Monaghan, were declared elected. The Clerk was instructed to intimate the fact of their election to those gentlemen, and to request their attendance in court, that they may signify their decision, and sign the Trust Deed. Two Trustees elected.

Form for Statistics.

XXVII. The Rev. John Lynd laid on the table the printed forms for taking the statistics of the congregations. The Clerk was instructed to send copies each year to the Clerks of Presbyteries, that they may get them filled at the meetings before Synod, so as to be handed in at each meeting of Synod. For this year the ministers are directed to take the forms, fill them and send them to the Rev. Mr. Lynd, not later than next week.

Rep. on Theol. Hall.

XXVIII. The Rev. Robert Nevin presented the Report of the Theological Hall. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. R. Allen, seconded by Rev. A. Savage, and passed.

Report of the Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall.

Opening of Session.

The thirty-first Session of the Theological Hall was opened on Tuesday, 16th November, 1886, when the Committee of Superintendence met, the Moderator of Synod in the chair. Six students were enrolled—two of the third year; two of the second; one of the first; and one who had been able to make only a partial attendance in the previous Session, whose status has been left to be determined by Synod at the present meeting.

They were examined on the subjects which had been prescribed for intersessional study, and the answering was favourably regarded.

Programme.

In accordance with Min. XIX. of Synod's proceedings last year, 100 copies of the revised Programme of Education of Candidates for the Ministry, submitted by your Committee, were printed, and a copy sent to each member of Synod. It will be for Synod now to alter and confirm, as in its wisdom it may see fit.

Mawhinney Bursary.

The Professor reported the receipt of donation of £100 from Mrs. Mawhinney, of Philadelphia, U.S.A., to found a Bursary, in memory of her father, the late Dr. Mawhinney, of Belfast, together with £3 additional, by way of part interest, so that the full interest of £5 might be given to the successful competitor at the end of the Session then commencing. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks to the donor, and it was agreed that the Bursary should bear the name of "The Mawhinney Bursary." The competitors to submit to a written examination, and give in an essay on a subject to be prescribed by the Professor, not to exceed 15 minutes' reading. The papers to have a number with closed envelope to divulge the name. The Moderator, Dr. Thompson, with Messrs. M'Farlane and J. Dick, were appointed to prepare the written questions and to adjudicate. In the evening, the Moderator, Rev. J. Lynd, delivered the opening public lecture in the Church, to a large and appreciative audience,

on "The Church's Necessities and Work," a subject which he discussed in a most instructive and effective manner. Report on Theol. Hall.

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

The course of study in Theology during the past session ranged from the doctrine of the Divine Decrees to the Person and Offices of Christ. It included such important topics as Predestination—the Providence of God—the Creation and Fall of Man—the Covenant of Works—the Covenant of Grace—the Atonement—the Person, Offices, and Dominion of the Divine Mediator. My own lectures were designed to concentrate attention on the history and value of the Federal Theology, and on the principal points involved in the Arminian Controversy. Eight additional lectures were delivered, for the first time, on the Scriptural doctrine of Reconciliation, showing that the words atonement and reconciliation are generally confounded; that God is not said to be reconciled to man, but that, in sovereign grace, for His great love wherewith He loved us, He gave His only-begotten Son to be our Substitute and Surety; that, by His death, the way might be opened up, in consistency with the claims of inflexible justice, by which lost and guilty sinners might be restored to His favour; and that the cross of Christ, in which justice has been fully satisfied, and the wrath of God appeased, is now the grand instrument by which rebellion against God is vanquished, and the heart of enmity is won back into perfect submission and reconciliation. "All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." The examinations in Church History extended from the seventh to the close of the thirteenth century. In the literature of the Bible the examinations included—Proper Names—the Parables and Miracles of Scripture—the Geography of Palestine—the Bible Calendar—Jewish Sects and Orders, and the Ethnology of Scripture. The usual class exercises were carefully attended to, when the application and proficiency of the students were in all respects satisfactory. The Mawhinney Bursary, recently founded by Mrs. Mawhinney, of Philadelphia, had a marked effect in intensifying the attention of the students on the class reading of the session, and in stimulating to increased exertion. Another Bursary of double the amount would be of great benefit to the Hall. Business of Session.

INTERSESSIONAL STUDIES.

At the opening of the Hall in November next the students will be examined on the following subjects:— Intersess. Studies.

Scripture, Introduction.—The Chronicles: Date of Compilation, Author, Sources, Scope, and Historical Value.

Greek Testament.—The General Epistle of James.

Report on Theol. Hall.

Confession.—The National Covenant—The Solemn League and Covenant—A Solemn Acknowledgment of Public Sins and Breaches of the Covenant.

Historical Testimony.—Period VI.

Church History.—Mosheim, century fourteenth.

Theology.—Hodge's Outlines, chapter xxviii., Effectual Calling.

The following books will be required by every student attending the Hall:—

Hodge's Outlines of Theology (last edition).

Mosheim's Institutes of Ecclesiastical History.

Aids to the Study of the Bible (Eyre & Spottiswoode).

JOSIAS A. CHANCELLOR.

CLOSE OF THE SESSION.

Close of Session.

The Session was closed on Tuesday, 15th March, 1887. The Secretary reported that he had written a letter of thanks to Mrs. Mawhinney, the donor of the Mawhinney Bursary, as instructed. The Moderator, as Convener of the committee of adjudication, reported that it had been awarded to Mr. Andrew Cross Gregg, and the amount, £5, was handed to him. It was agreed that an appeal should be made to the members of the Church for funds towards the establishment of one or more additional bursaries, as prizes for the encouragement of the students. The Professor reported regarding the work of the Session, and spoke most favourably of the conduct, diligence, and progress of all the students. He referred particularly to the facility and proficiency which they manifested in the department of criticism. Their criticisms on each other's work were made in the fairest and most impartial manner, and were fitted to interest and benefit the whole class. As to the discourses delivered by them, they were very well prepared. The final Sessional examination was conducted by the Professor, and each student read an essay. The Committee expressed satisfaction. Mr. A. Holmes and Mr. J. T. Potts, having completed their theological course, were recommended to their respective Presbyteries, to be taken under trials for licence. It was agreed to recommend Mr. A. C. Gregg to Synod, to be regarded as a student who had completed his second Theological Session. In the evening Dr. Thompson delivered the closing public lecture. His subject was, "The Gospel Ministry—Preparation for it, and Fulfilment of it."

FUNDS.

Funds.

The collections of last year fell short of meeting all claims. It was hoped those of this year would more than repay this, while meeting the expenditure. But the account shows that the balance against the scheme has been rather more than doubled. This should not be allowed to

go on from year to year. Either there must be a curtailment of expenditure, or an enlargement of contribution. The expenditure cannot be called extravagant, and a trifling addition by each member of the Church to his usual contribution would meet every want. Report on Theol. Hall.

It is cause for profound thankfulness that young men of promise are coming forward to take the place of honoured fathers who have been called to their reward. But the vacancies are still numerous in proportion to the total of our congregations. Surely every encouragement should be held forth to those who have the requisite qualifications to engage in the glorious work of striving to win souls to Christ.

XXIX. It was moved by the Rev. John Lynd, seconded by the Rev. R. Allen, and passed unanimously, that the recommendation of the Hall Committee, that Mr. Andrew Cross Gregg should be regarded as a student who has completed his second year in Theology, be adopted. Mr. A. C. Gregg.

XXX. The Plan of Education for candidates for the ministry was taken up and considered. After corrections, it was passed so far as it goes by Synod. As some blanks stand to be filled up, the document was remitted to the Committee of Superintendence of the Hall, with instructions to have it completed, and to report to Synod on Thursday evening. The Committee was also instructed to consider the possibility of raising funds for the establishment of a second bursary, or bursaries, for competition by the students. Plan of Educ.

XXXI. It was moved by the Rev. Gawin Douglas, and seconded by Rev. W. M'Knight, That the Synod do now proceed to elect a second Professor. A second Professor elected.

It was moved, as an amendment, by Rev. A. Savage, seconded by the Rev. R. Allen, That Synod is not now prepared to proceed to the election of a second Professor.

On a show of hands the motion was declared carried.

The Synod proceeded to elect a Professor of Hebrew, Biblical Criticism, Exegesis, and Church History. The Rev. James Dick, M.A., of Kilraughts, was elected by a majority of votes; and afterwards Dr. Thompson moved, and Rev. John Lynd seconded, That the election be made unanimous, which was carried, *nem. con.* At the request of Mr. Dick, Synod allowed him till to-morrow morning to consider the answer which he will give to the call of Synod.

XXXII. The Rev. James Dick presented the Report of the Congregational Aid Scheme. It follows:— Rep. on Cong. Aid.

Congregational Aid Report.

The object of the Congregational Aid Scheme has been to keep up the dispensation of gospel ordinances in weak Design.

Rep. on Cong. Aid.

congregations. This object has been sought to be attained by supplementing the wholly inadequate salaries of ministers in such congregations, and by providing supplies of preaching for those congregations which are not strong enough to have a minister settled over them. It can hardly be said that the object thus contemplated by the fund has been yet very creditably gained. The salaries of ministers in aid-receiving congregations are still far too small, and mission or preaching stations do not receive more than occasional supplies of preaching.

Minimum.

When the Congregational Aid Scheme was put upon its present basis, it was deemed necessary that congregations should contribute at the rate of 4s per member per year. This would not be felt to be a burdensome, and much less an impossible, amount, if the contributions were proportioned to the means of the members in each congregation. For the past year the contributions per member, calculated upon the published or ascertained statistics of membership in the different congregations, were as follows:— Grange, 4s 3d; Derry, 4s; Mulvin, 3s 6¾d; Killinchy, 2s 5½d; Loughbrickland, 2s 1d; Belfast, 2s 0¼d; Ballyclare and Larne, 1s 9½d; Garvagh, 1s 8½d; Ballyclabber, 1s 7¼d; Kilraughts, 1s 6d; Faughan, 1s 4¾d; Ballylane and Newtownards, each, 1s 3¾d; Bailliesmills, 1s 2¼d; Fairview and Tullyvallen, 1s 3d; Ballymoney, 1s 1¾d; Dervock, 1s 0¼d; Ballylaggan and Limavady, each, 0s 10¼d; Kellswater, 0s 9½d; Stranorlar, 0s 8¾d; Dromara, 0s 7¼d; Newry and Knockbracken, each, 0s 5¾d; Rathfriland, 0s 5¼d; Bready, 0s 4¼d; Crievagh, 0s 3¼d; Ballenon, 0s 2¾d; Drimbolg, 0s 2½d.

The foregoing figures serve to show that, while a very few congregations have reached or approached the desired amount, most of the congregations have fallen very far below it. Some congregations, notably Ballenon and Drimbolg, persist in ignoring the Synod's order about two collections in the year; and from the amounts contributed by those two congregations, it may be inferred that they fail to use the collecting cards, and adhere to the old method which experience and results show to be inferior.

Penny a-week

One penny per week per member would realize 4s 4d per member for the year. Could the members of our congregations not reach this sum? Suppose that in a congregation of two hundred members there are fifty who could not afford one penny a-week to support weak congregations, are there not fifty who could give twopence each per week? Or, ten who could quite easily give one shilling a-week? Let the strong keep the weak in all the congregations, and let the members of the Church take a religious interest in this fund, as a method of showing love

to Christ, and love to brethren, and the Committee will not have to repeat the humiliating record of this year, that the supplements to aid-receiving congregations have had to be reduced by £2 5s 9d each, low as they were before. If the members of the Church could bring themselves to think—and why should they ever have thought anything else?—that they are giving their money to Jesus Christ to carry on His work, they would surely consider their present offering, for this purpose, too mean to put into His hands. Rep. on Cong. Aid. Obligation.

JAMES DICK, *Sec. and Treas.*

The acceptance of the Report was moved by the Rev. John Lynd, seconded by the Rev. Torrens Boyd, and passed unanimously, with the following resolution appended:—"That the different Presbyteries be instructed by Synod to send deputations, before next meeting of Synod, to the several congregations under their care, to bring before these the claims of the Congregational Aid Scheme, and stir them up to a fuller conception of their obligation and privilege in heartily sustaining this Scheme."

XXXIII. A memorial from the Newry congregation, shewing that certain property, from which part of the income of the congregation was drawn, had in the meantime become unproductive, and requesting the court to make them a grant from the Congregational Aid Fund, to continue until the property begins again to yield an income, was read. Mr. James Crookshanks, commissioner, and Mr. Robert Sturgeon, elder, spoke in support of the memorial. Petition from Newry.

It was moved by the Rev. J. D. Houston, seconded by the Rev. J. Dick, and passed, That the Newry congregation be put on the list of aid-receiving congregations, with the proviso, that the ten pounds, the calculated value of the manse, according to one of the rules of the Fund, will not be deducted from the amount paid to the congregation. Granted.

SESSION V.

Wednesday, 29th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

The Synod resumed, Professor Chancellor in the chair. The Rev. Samuel Rea M'Neilly conducted devotional exercises.

The minutes of the former sederunt were read and confirmed.

XXXIV. The Rev. A. S. Lyons presented the Report of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. Its adoption was moved by the Convener, seconded by Mr. Robert Long, and passed unanimously. The Report follows:— Rep. of W. & O. F.

Rep. of W. & O. F.

Report on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The Committee on the Widows' and Orphans' Fund have very little of importance to report. During the year we have held only two meetings. In consideration of the depressed condition of agricultural and commercial interests throughout the country your committee deemed it wiser to refrain from making any special efforts. So that, with the exception of one deputation, and a few private appeals by the convener, little has been done to further the interests of this scheme during the year.

Your committee deeply regret that they were constrained to follow this course. They would gladly have put forth all their strength had there been a good hope of success crowning their efforts.

However, under the circumstances, your committee consider this fund in a very satisfactory condition.

The cash in hand now reaches up within measurable distance of the minimum fixed by Synod for distribution. At the next annual meeting of this court your committee hope to be in a position to announce that they have succeeded in raising £1,500.

A. S. LYONS, Sec.

Rep. of For. Mission.

XXXV. The Report of the Foreign Mission was read by the Secretary, Rev. J. D. Houston. Its adoption was moved by the Rev. James Dick, seconded by the Rev. John Lynd, and passed unanimously. The following is the Report:—

Foreign Mission Report, 1886-1887.

In this age of busy activity, in which men jostle each other, and strain every nerve in the pathways of progress, it is just what we might expect that a certain amount of labour of hand and brain will be expended on the work of Missions. This field of human enterprize must have its band of zealous workers, and we may look for a certain amount of enthusiasm which will impart spirit and staying powers to those who work. Also a comparatively fair record of success gained can be written, to afford cause for thanksgiving and hope. Still it must be said that that amount of attention to this cause and work of Missions has not been given, which the true-hearted loyalty of the Churches to Christ demand. Have we done our duty? Have we either in thought or deed come within a measurable distance of grasping the great task? Something, we might say, much, has been done, and the followers of Jesus are beginning to wake up to a sense of their heavy responsibility in regard to the many millions of our brothers that are perishing for lack of knowledge. We have been again

Attention to subject.

Progress.

and again, very recently, asked to look back upon the history of the last fifty years, and to compare the state of the world in 1837 with the state of the world in 1887. We have been told, and rightly told, that human progress has made more rapid strides in the half century that is past than in any similar period since the world began. In every line there has been advance in a geometrical ratio, and the heights now reached would hardly have been dreamed of when the Queen, who has recently heard the Jubilee acclaim of her subjects, began to reign. Many enterprizes, noble and good, have assumed grand proportions in the judgment of men; and surely there is to be seen an ever-growing amount of disinterested devotion to every cause that will in any way better the condition of our race. Nor have men failed to notice and to remark that this Victorian era has been an era of Missionary enterprize. During this era the ten Missionary associations of the United Kingdom have become sixty-five, the twenty-seven of all Christendom have swelled to one hundred and eighty-five. The contributions have increased in a five-fold degree, mounting up from half a million to two millions and a half of money. At the beginning of this era the native converts numbered only some 400,000; now we can count up three millions of human beings who have turned from their idols to serve the living God. During the same period of fifty years the Missionary band, ordained and unordained, has increased from 760 (and not twelve of these natives and women) to 40,000, including 2,000 women. In this noble band there are 33,000 natives, and 3,000 of these ordained. This hath God wrought. These statistics prove that at least part of the work has been done. They are enough to make us thank God and take courage. Rep. of For. Mission.

And yet we may not congratulate ourselves on account of anything that we have done. After all the Churches have touched but the outer margin of the vast field; the area of the most extended operations is limited, indeed; only a few little spots of brightness at long distances relieve the universal darkness that still clouds the lands of earth. Almost nineteen hundred years have passed since the great founder of Christianity first inaugurated the glorious era of evangelical Missions, and yet the number of earth's inhabitants that have been brought to the light is very few. Men of strong thought, but not of Christian sentiment, wonder at this, and take opportunity to deride Christianity. They cannot understand the callousness and indifference of those who profess to believe the great truth. Worldly men, who go in for enthusiastic striving after the attainment of the object which they set before No reason to boast.

Rep. of For. Mission.

them, often infer, as they look upon the slack-handedness of the Church, that she has not a true faith in her own mission and in her own work. We would naturally think that hundreds of years ago, in this world, the day would have been gained for Christ, and the era of glory about which we often speak—about which, perhaps, we sometimes dream—would have burst upon the world. And yet it is not so. After all that has been done, darkness covers the earth, and gross darkness the people. The land has not yet been conquered; the heathenism has not yet been driven out. Is not this enough to cause deep searchings of heart to those who love the Lord, and who long for the coming of His kingdom? Have the subjects of Christ been remiss? Have they misunderstood their position and their work? Have they been faithless, and therefore have they failed to work any great deliverance in the earth? Surely we ought to lay these questions solemnly to heart, and seek a larger and more enlightened enthusiasm, and pray for a holier and more efficient baptism of zeal in the noble cause. Let us seek a larger accession of all those high influences which will qualify us for being fellow-workers with Christ, which will so endow us, and so bind us to our task, that we shall be neither barren nor unfruitful in this work of the Lord.

Rather to be humbled.

Syria.

During the past year the progress of our mission in Syria has been such as to call for thanksgiving to Almighty God. The work has been going steadily on with encouraging tokens of success, and it has suffered no interruption from any cause.

Building.

With regard to the material advancement of the mission, it is gratifying to be able to report that at length the Mission Building is completed. After much labour and anxiety and long waiting, it is pleasing to think that we have now suitable premises in Antioch. Dr. Martin has moved into the new house, and finds it very comfortable. The discomfort of eastern houses is *one*, and not the least, of the trials which our missionaries have had to endure. With very scanty accommodation, far from waterfast, full of draughts, having no proper sanitary arrangements, with no possibility of securing needed privacy, it is a perpetual tribulation to live in them. The change to Dr. and Mrs. Martin will, we are sure, be a very agreeable one. They have now, at least, a comfortable dwelling-house. There is also in the building a dispensary, and ample room for preaching. To Dr. Martin the best thanks of the Church are due for his unflagging exertion and watchful care in bringing the building to completion. He had many difficulties to contend with, of which we can know nothing. In the midst of other and multiplied labours, it was no

small tax upon his energies and upon his time to see to the work, and to exercise a general superintendence over it as it progressed in its different stages. Now that it is completed, we cannot but acknowledge our indebtedness to Dr. Martin for his zeal and diligence in connection with it. Rep. of For. Mission.

While we rejoice over the material comfort of our missionaries, and hope that they will live long to enjoy their new home, it is with deep sorrow that we refer to the heavy domestic trial which it has pleased our Heavenly Father to send to them. Scarcely had Dr. Martin got comfortably settled in the mission house when the shadow of a dark affliction descended upon his household. God reached out and took the only child. After a very brief illness, and ere the seriousness of the case could be realized, the bright and lively and interesting boy, who, as his parents fondly expected, would have made the chambers of their habitation cheerful and melodious with his mirth, was brought within the sweep of the sickle of the great reaper. We only speak the truth when we say that the heart of the whole Church beats in true sympathy with our brother and sister who, in the weary land of Syria, have been asked to give up their first and only child, and our prayer to the God of all comfort is that He will lighten the burden of sorrow, and enable His tried servants to say, "Thy will be done." God has given them to drink of the wine of astonishment, but we trust He is, in graciousness and mercy, mingling sweet ingredients in the cup. At this sad time they need our sympathy and our prayers, and we are sure they shall have both. Death of P. Martin.

At our last meeting of Synod the state of the Mission, and especially the want of a second ordained Missionary, excited a good deal of interest and thoughtful anxiety, and it was agreed to ask the Church, at an appointed time, to engage in special prayer on behalf of the work in Syria. A full circular was issued by the secretary, asking our congregations to observe a season of special prayer during the first week in October, and also requesting ministers to make this matter the subject of special instruction on the first Sabbath of each October. We have reason to believe that a lively response has been made to the circular throughout the Church. Meetings have been held in different places, Missionary associations have been organized, and larger contributions, from some quarters, have been sent; and we cherish the hope that the fresh stimulus thus given to the Mission will yet bear fruit. Especially we long that God may soon put it into the heart of some young man to offer himself to be put in training for the work in Antioch. Our brethren in Scotland have had this Means to stimulate. Need for second ordained missionary.

Rep. of For. Mission.

subject under earnest and particular consideration, and are of opinion that very strenuous and speedy efforts should be made to attain this desired object. Dr. Martin pleads again and again for an helper; and the need is very urgent, and at the same time the Head of the Church has raised up an unusually large number of candidates for the ministry. We cherish the hope that, before another year passes, there will be the prospect that the long-felt want will be supplied, and that our staff in Antioch will at length reach what we must call the minimum number necessary for anything like efficient working. Let us bespeak the earnest prayers of our people on behalf of this most important object. God will be entreated for this, and He will give an answer, and send a fitting man. Will not some young man offer himself? Will not some one, in whose heart the Spirit of the Lord is, come forward and say in the language of joyful willingness, and unreserved consecration, "Here am I, send me."

Antioch and Idlib.

The work in Antioch and in Idlib goes on as usual, with encouraging tokens of success. Dr. Martin and his staff of helpers have been preserved in health, and graciously sustained in doing their work. The Mission Schools have been larger during the year than at any former time, as many as 150 pupils being sometimes in attendance in Antioch, and about 30 in Idlib. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper has been administered, once in Idlib, in the month of November, and once in Antioch, in the month of February, Dr. Martin, of course, taking upon himself the whole burden of the work. During the year seven communicants have been received into Church-fellowship, five males and two females. Three children were baptized. There have been three deaths, namely, the mother of Abdul Masseeah, her infant, and Paul Crawford Martin, child of Dr. and Mrs. Martin. One young couple of the members have been married. It may be interesting to note that the population of Antioch is now officially stated at 25,000, and that of Idlib, at over 12,000. In both, the majority of the inhabitants is Moslem.

Miss Cunningham.

A short time ago Miss Cunningham wrote requesting of the committee leave of absence for a short time. She has now been occupied in the field for about five years, and while her ordinary health has been good, she has been feeling the effects of the severe climate of the country. Last year she had an attack of Syrian fever, and though she has recovered from it, still her health is not as we would wish it to be. We have, therefore, in conjunction with our Scotch brethren, judged it right to accede to Miss Cunningham's request, and we have granted her leave of absence for at least three months. We cannot yet tell

when Miss Cunningham will arrive in this country, as she has her arrangements to make. But when she does come, we expect that plans will be adopted which will allow her to visit our congregations. We confidently hope that Miss Cunningham's visit will be the means of exciting a livelier interest in our work in Syria, and intensifying our enthusiasm in the great cause of Missions. We are sure she will be received in every part of the Church with a very kindly welcome, and she will be honoured by our people for her work's sake. Rep. of For. Mission.

With regard to finance, we are glad to be able to report that the Mission is in a healthy condition. The first year's income of the Hurst Bequest has enabled us to clear off the debt in the school account; and Dr. Martin writes a few days ago—"I have, in closing my accounts (to May 1st), a small balance to the right side this year." It must be stated, however, that his statement of account includes a grant of £25 from the British and Foreign Bible Society, in aid of our colportage work in Antioch and Idlib. Our income, assuming that it will keep at what it is, will, we are pleased to know, meet our present expenditure. The amount required from us for the Mission, in round numbers, is about £450, and our income for the year will be, we expect, a little above that figure. It will guide our congregations, in contributing during the coming year, if we state that the estimated expenses of the minister, including Miss Cunningham's travelling expenses, will be in round numbers, over £500. Of this sum the interest coming from Bequests will amount to about £150, leaving £350 to be contributed throughout the congregations of the Church. When speaking on the subject of finance, we cannot refrain from referring with laudation to the Ladies' Missionary Association in the Belfast congregation. That association has raised a goodly sum of money, which has been, we understand, sent out directly to Dr. Martin, partly in aid of the schools and partly for other purposes connected with the Mission. The Belfast ladies have set a good example, and we wish the ladies in other congregations would imitate their zeal. In some of our congregations there are Juvenile Missionary Associations, which are doing good work. We might mention, with deserved praise, the Juvenile Missionary Associations of Belfast, Creevagh, Limavady, and Mulvin, from all of which very respectable contributions have been received during the year. Might we not have such associations in all or in most of our congregations? Their formation and energetic working would tend to cultivate a missionary spirit, which is the great need of the Church. With the view of exciting a deeper and more

Funds.

Ladies' and Juv. Associations.

Rep. of For. Mission.

general interest throughout the Church in our work, and especially with the view of making the work a kind of family concern, as it ought to be in our families, your Secretary recently got prepared a number of missionary boxes, covered with suitable statements and mottoes, for distribution among the people. A number of these have been taken by families in the Church, and we earnestly desire that they should be taken very generally. We believe that, besides drawing out our children to think of our work, and to take an interest in it, a very considerable sum can be raised annually by these boxes, and raised in a way that will contribute to the pleasure both of the giver and the little collectors.

Call for more help.

Fathers and Brethren, we think the time is now fully come when we should make a new advance in our Missionary work in Syria. God has blessed us. For present need He has filled our treasury, and given us something over, and we most assuredly think that He is, not obscurely, indicating unto us His will that we should go forward. We shall miss our opportunity if we do not obey, and we greatly mistake the spirit and temper of our people if we, as a Synod, are not pressed to obey the plainly indicated will of Heaven, and to take immediate steps to secure a fuller equipment of working agencies for our Mission. This thing, we think, should be voted urgent, and we should not rest till it be accomplished. If God has given us a vantage ground, it will be perilous for us to hold back from taking our stand upon it. We earnestly hope that before our next Report is presented, we shall have the offer of a fitting man, and we must take necessary steps so to increase our contributions as to show a salary ready for him. We can do it. After all, although our account is in a healthy condition, the collections sent in from our congregations, and large congregations, are sorrowfully small. If we deduct from our income the interest from Bequests, there is a very small sum left to represent the missionary zeal that exists throughout the Church. Our members might double and treble their contributions, and yet be far from reaching what might be expected in the way of giving for this noble cause. It is certain that our home prosperity will be all the greater in proportion as we recognize our duty to spread abroad the Gospel of Jesus in the dark lands of the earth.

But behind all our giving, better than all our giving, we need to have evoked into passionate fervour the true missionary spirit—a spirit that yearns after the souls of those who are perishing—a spirit that will not allow the Church to rest till her great work be done—a spirit that will prompt us not only to pray—"Thy kingdom come," but that will compel to go and labour ceaselessly for the

attainment of the glorious consummation. If that spirit dominate us, if it be in us as a controlling passion, our work will not languish, our giving will not be stinted and fitful. When the Church is mastered by the prevailing passion for Missions, her giving will not be unequal as it is now, her congregations and her members will advance all together, and will unitedly exert the full complement of the ability which God hath given them. Nor will the Church in any way suffer, even should she lay herself a sacrifice on the altar of this service. She will be the better for doing it. Rep. of For. Mission.

Fathers and Brethren, we lay down the Report with more than usual hopefulness. We are thankful for the past. We can say "the Lord hath been mindful of us," and we do not tremble for the future. "He will bless us still." We believe we make no mistake when we say that the Church is getting into better form for doing the great work of Missions. She is rising up to a consciousness of the vastness of her task, and she is not frightened at its vastness. The need of the perishing is more fully realized by her; the cry of those who are asking for help is now distinctly heard by her; and she is collecting her strength in a mighty resolution, to rest not until this wide world is conquered for Jesus. Her zeal is beginning at length to burn, and it will burn more and more till all the earth shall feel the glories of His name. It is our ambition to bear a part in the great work. We are few in number, but let us have big hearts and high courage, and true loyalty to Jesus, and we shall not come in last. In due time we shall reap if we faint not. This work *cannot* fail. Men may fall out of the ranks of the workers; their dull and languid zeal may leave them far behind, but the work must ever advance. The mouth of the Lord hath spoken it—"As I live saith the Lord, unto me every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess." "And it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." Respectfully submitted. Reason for hopefulness.

J. D. Houston, Secretary.

The Clerk was instructed to remind the congregations of the Church of the week of prayer for Missions—the first week of October—and to remind the ministers to bring the subject of the Mission before their congregations on the first Sabbath of October each year.

XXXVI. At this stage Mr. John M'Donald, Glasgow, according to arrangement, and at the request of the

Moderator, addressed the court on the subject of Ministerial Support.

Rep. on Covenanting.

XXXVII. The Report of the Committee on Covenanting was presented by the Rev. James Dick. The discussion of it was reserved. The Report follows :—

Report of Committee on Covenanting.

Your Committee were appointed at last Synod to consider whether any steps should be taken to prepare the Church for engaging in the work of Covenanting, and, if so, what these steps ought to be. Although, by the terms of their appointment, the desirableness of engaging in the work of Covenanting seemed to be taken for granted, and the appointment had specific reference only to preparation for the work, yet the Committee did not deem it outside of the duties assigned to them to consider the prior question, Ought the Church to contemplate public Covenanting as a present duty and privilege? Taking into account the fact that a period of about a generation has elapsed since the Church engaged in this work, and that the solemn renovation of public engagements by the Synod at Dervock in 1853, and subsequently by nearly all the congregations of the Church, had manifestly the effect of promoting revival of religion, and steadfastness in maintaining the Testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Committee were of one mind as to the probability that similar good effects would follow, in Divine Providence, were the Church ere long to engage solemnly in a similar work. Hence the Committee were perfectly agreed that steps ought to be taken immediately to open up the way of the Church, so that the Synod and the congregations might again, by solemn covenant, consecrate themselves to the maintenance of the great truths of Christ's cross and crown. Such acts of public Covenanting are manifestly too serious and solemn to be hastily or rashly performed. The need for careful preparation is proportioned to the solemnity and importance of the transaction. And the Church could not be expected to renew formally its covenant with God without having its attention called to the dutifulness and the advantages of such a proceeding. The Committee therefore deem it right to recommend to Synod the adoption of measures fitted to create and extend an intelligent and prayerful interest in the proposed act of Covenanting. The measures which the Committee agree in suggesting for the adoption of Synod are—

A present duty.

Not to be rashly engaged in.

Recommendations.

1. That papers be published in *The Covenanter* (and struck off, if deemed advisable by the Committee, for separate circulation) on the subject of the Public Covenants,

their continuing obligation, past renovations of them by the Reformed Presbyterian Church, the obligation resting on the Church still to keep and maintain them, in all their Scriptural extent, as vows of fidelity to Christ, and kindred aspects of the subject—and all these with special reference to an early act of Covenant renovation by the Church. Rep. on Covenanting.

2. That the Synod direct the ministers of the Church to preach on the subject of Covenanting, with a view to the preparation of the Church for that work, on such Sabbath or Sabbaths in the ensuing Synodical year as the Synod may deem suitable.

Respectfully submitted. JAS. DICK, Convener.

XXXVIII. William Wallace Houston, Esq., was present in court, and signified his acceptance of the Trusteeship of Synod's Funds, to which he had been elected.

SESSION VI.

Thursday, 30th June, Ten o'clock, a.m.

The Synod resumed, Dr. Chancellor in the chair. The Rev. J. M. Littlejohn conducted devotional exercises.

The Minutes of the former sederunt were read and confirmed.

XXXIX. The Rev. James Dick, M.A., signified his acceptance of Synod's appointment to the chair of Hebrew, Biblical Criticism and Exegesis, and Church History. Rev. J. Dick Professor.

XL. A memorial from the congregation of Liverpool, at present vacant, setting forth the fact that the congregation having suffered somewhat by recent events, the stipend list has been reduced; and praying for a continuance of the annual grant of £40 from the Congregational Aid Fund, was read. Mr. James Lynn M'Clay, the commissioner, and Mr. James M'Gladry, elder, were heard in support of it. Professor Dick, who had recently been in Liverpool, was requested by the court to state what he knew regarding the condition of the congregation. He (Professor Dick) moved that the prayer of the memorial be granted. The motion was seconded by Rev. A. Savage, and passed unanimously. Petit. from Liverpool.

XLI. A letter was read from the Liverpool Session, asking Synod, in accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed, to appoint a minister to the Board of Trustees of the Liverpool Church Property, which has recently been reduced below the required number. Trustee for Liverpool.

It was moved by the Rev. John Lynd, seconded by the Rev. R. Allen, and passed, that the Rev. J. D. Houston be appointed trustee to represent Synod on the Board of Rev. J. D. Houston.

Trustees of the Property. Mr. Houston signified his acceptance of the appointment.

XLII. Professor Dick gave in his resignation of the Convenership of the Congregational Aid Committee, stating that, as Synod had laid on him the burden of a heavy and important work, he could not devote sufficient time to the working of the scheme. It was moved by Dr. Thompson, seconded by the Rev. J. D. Houston, and passed, that the resignation of Professor Dick be accepted, and that the cordial thanks of this Synod be given to him for his diligence and zeal during the time of his holding office.

Mr. Lynd Sec. Cong. Aid.

XLIII. It was moved by the Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, seconded by the Rev. R. Allen, and passed unanimously, that the Rev. John Lynd be appointed Convener of the Congregational Aid Committee.

XLIV. Thomas Henry, Esq., was present in court, and, at the request of the Moderator, signified his acceptance of the Trusteeship of Synod's Funds, to which he had been elected.

XLV. The Congregational Aid Committee was appointed as follows:—Revs. John Lynd (Convener); A. Lyons, The Moderator, J. D. Houston, R. A. M'Farlane, Professor Dick; Messrs. William Reid, Thomas Henry, W. J. Aiken, J. Longwill, W. Y. Patterson. The congregation of Dervock, and that of Fairview and Tullyvallen, having duly qualified, were ordered to be put on the list of aid-receiving congregations.

Causes.

XLVI. The Rev. A. M. Stavely read the Causes of Thanksgiving and Humiliation, which was accepted by Synod as follows:—

Causes of Thanksgiving.

Duty.

Gratitude to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works unto the sons of men, is a duty to be observed at all times, and the cultivation of this Christian grace is the index of our spiritual life. Whilst, however, we are commanded to "give thanks always for all things," specially on a day set apart for thanksgiving, we would mention the following amongst many as causes for our heartfelt gratitude.

Privileges.

1. As every blessing bestowed upon us, whether pertaining to the life that is temporal or spiritual, has its origin in the love that gave us Christ, and provided redemption through Him, we would call upon our souls to thank God for His Unspeakable Gift—for the preaching of the glorious Gospel which tells us the way of salvation—for our Sabbaths which have been to many days of heaven upon earth—for our sanctuaries, which are meeting places for communion and fellowship with God, and for all those ordinances and means of grace which are

still continued with us, and which we believe have been made through the working of the Divine Spirit, instrumental in awakening, strengthening, and comforting the children of the kingdom.

Reforming Ancestors.

2. We thank God, when expressing our gratitude for past and present mercies, for the grace bestowed upon our Covenanting ancestors, who, in spite of reproach and persecution, earnestly contended for the 'crown rights' of Immanuel, and for liberty to worship God according to the dictates of conscience and the teachings of the Word of Life, and who thus gained for themselves immortal renown, and for us, for our fellow-christians, and our land, a large measure of those civil, social, and religious privileges which we now possess, and which call for our thanksgiving and praise. They sowed in tears; we now reap in joy. "God has sent us to reap that on which we bestowed no labour; others have laboured, and we have entered into their labours."

Signs of Spiritual Life.

3. We thank God for many favours to our Church—for symptoms of spiritual life, which show that the Lord is still in our midst. Our congregations appreciate the ordinances of religion. God's law is respected, and our members generally adorn their profession, by living as becometh Christians, and the followers of them who through *faith and patience inherit the promises.*

Teachers.

4. We thank God that when some standard-bearers have left us, others have been raised up to fill the vacancies thereby created. The Theological Hall promises to meet the wants of our Zion. Young men of talent, piety, and zeal have gone from it, who have proved a blessing to the Church, and made glad the City of our God. Four of our oldest congregations have had pastors ordained and settled over them during the past year.

Missions.

5. We thank God that our Missionaries abroad have been spared, though tried; that the Mission buildings at Antioch have been completed, and whilst with us it is still a day of small things, we have reason to thank God and take courage, when we hear that in Syria the devoted labours of our own Missionaries, and of the brethren of our sister church in the United States, at Latakia, Tarsus, and Mersine, are preparing the way of the Lord, casting up a highway for our God, and gathering in the scattered tribes of His inheritance. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Temporal Mercies.

6. We thank God that notwithstanding our national, social, and individual sins, we have been kept free from war, famine, earthquake, and pestilence. We have had a

good seed time, and the prospect of a favourable season for ripening the sheaves of summer and preserving the fruits of the earth. It is "the Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth;" "Who giveth food to all flesh," and we praise Him who hath done great things for us; who crowneth the year with His goodness, for His mercy endureth forever. "O Lord how manifold are Thy works; in wisdom thou hast made them all. The earth is full of Thy riches."

Prospects. 7. We thank God that when iniquity abounds, when worldliness, infidelity, intemperance, and Sabbath desecration prevail in our land, and gigantic calamities threaten our nation, we are not deprived of Gospel ordinances and Gospel privileges: and can still rejoice in the light that prophecy casts on the immediate future. The Lord will surely come to take His great power, and reign in answer to the importunate and persevering prayers of His people. Anti-Christianism, in its every form of false religion, will be consumed—every hostile power subdued—systems of idolatry, delusion, superstition, and oppression destroyed—the Jews brought back with the fulness of the Gentile nations to the One fold under One shepherd, the kingdoms of the world made the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and the whole earth be filled with His glory. Then will come a glorious and long-predicted era—a blessed and universal Jubilee—the Jubilee of the world. Alleluia! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!

Prayer. 8. In conclusion, we thank God for all the goodness and the grace manifested towards us His professed servants, and we pray that His life-giving Spirit may descend on our ministers, elders, and people—that we may exemplify "the things which are honest, and just, and pure, and lovely, and of good report," that His work may more and more prosper in our hands—so as to continue to justify and commend before others our position and principles as a witnessing Church of the living God. "Thou shalt arise and have mercy upon Zion; for it is time to have pity upon her, yea, the set time is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and have pity upon her dust. So the nations shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth Thy glory."

"The afflicted's prayer he will not scorn;
All times this shall be on record;
And generations yet unborn
Shall praise and magnify the Lord."

For these and other reasons Synod appoints the last Thursday of November to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving. "Come and let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God."

Causes of Fasting.

Causes of Fasting. Individual Sins.

Our individual sins. "Who," as the Revised Version of the Scriptures expresses it, "can *discern* his errors? *Clear* thou me from *hidden* faults." This is an acknowledgment and a prayer that we need to present daily. How few feel the bondage and the burden of inward corruption! All have their besetting sins—sins of omission and commission—to be confessed before God, and forsaken. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Family and Social.

1. We confess our family and social sins—lukewarmness and formality in the worship of God; the gradual giving up, in some households, of those forms of devotion which were in the olden time almost universal, and which were regarded by our fathers as essential to their growth in grace.

Religious.

2. We lament the irregular and limited attendance in many cases, and in some instances the entire neglect of social fellowship meetings—the profanation of the Sabbath, which has become to many a day of worldly pleasure and recreation, and the careless performance of the duties to be observed on that sacred day, which the moral and eternal law of God especially requires us to remember and keep holy. "Ye shall keep my Sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord."

Want of Faith and Zeal.

3. We lament the low state of zeal and fervour in the Church for the cause of Christ—want of faith in the promises and prophecies of the Divine Word, and insufficient resolution and public spiritedness in promoting the advancement of the Lord's work at home and missions abroad, so that the great parting injunction of Christ may be obeyed, the Gospel preached to every creature, till, by the establishment and extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, men shall be blessed in Him, and all nations call Him blessed.

Indifference to Principle.

4. We lament indifference to solemn vows—a practical disregard of the distinctive principles for which the martyrs suffered—the neglect of family religious instruction—an unwillingness, especially among the young, to take Christ's yoke upon them, and thus to espouse, by a public profession, those Scriptural principles; and we lament that prevailing desire for pomp and show, which has a tendency to induce some to abandon altogether the Church of their fathers.

Worldliness.

5. We lament the sin of worldliness, which assumes many a form, manifests its power in every aspect of our religious and congregational life, hinders liberality and devotedness in promoting the cause of Christ, and leads to the decay of vital piety in the closet, the family,

and the church. Are there not with us, even with us, sins against the Lord our God ?

Public Immoralities.

6. We lament likewise the sins of others. The prevalence of vices which are branded as of the Devil by the Word of God—a lowering tone of morality in commercial and business transactions—a lack of honesty, truthfulness, and integrity—the immorality in high places and in low, the intemperance and practical infidelity which prevail, to a melancholy extent, even amongst the professors of religion. These and kindred sins—their name is legion—must, if unrepented of, bring down upon those who commit them the righteous indignation of Heaven.

Call to Heart-searching and Prayer.

Let us then, on this day of humiliation, search and try our ways, and pray as we have never done before, that God in His mercy would save us from the condemnation and merited punishment of those who only in the present life their part and portion have. "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to Me with all your heart and with fasting and with weeping and with mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of the evil. Who knoweth if He will return and repent and leave a blessing behind Him?"

National.

7. We lament our national sins, "The Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land," and with these nations which have violated solemn vows, set at naught His Word, despised His *sure decree* regarding the supreme and unlimited authority of Christ as King of nations and of saints—persecuted His servants who refused to join in their defection, so that He has given them up to their own ways, and to follow their own devices. Surely we may consider the Holy One of Israel as saying in His anger, "Shall I not visit for these things? Shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

Favour to Popery.

The favours shown by the state to Popery we have all along protested against, as the result of a disregard to the teachings of that Word which is the bulwark of a nation's strength; and defection from solemn covenant engagements is being seen in the confusion, crime, and unrighteousness, which so largely prevail in our unhappy country, developing sins which are a reproach to any people—a disgrace to civilization—and which threaten, as their sad consequence, national disaster, and even the dismemberment of the British Empire.

Let us stand in awe and sin not, and let us unitedly and earnestly pray that God may avert His righteous judgments, "be favourable to our land, forgive our iniquity, and cover all our sin."

"*O arm of the Lord awake as in ancient times. Revive us again that Thy people may rejoice in Thee. O God, plead Thine own cause.*" Causes of Fasting.

For these and other reasons Synod appoints the last Thursday of January, 1888, to be observed as a day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer.

Respectfully submitted. A. M. STAVELY.

The Rev. Mr. M'Knight, and the Rev. J. M. Littlejohn, were appointed a committee to prepare a draught of Causes of Thanksgiving and Humiliation for next year.

XLVII. The Commission of Synod was appointed as follows:—The Moderator, Revs. John Lynd, J. W. Houston, John Ramsay, Robert Allen, Gawin Douglass, J. M. Littlejohn, Samuel Ferguson, Robert Nevin; Messrs. Samuel Graham, Thomas Henry, William M'Millan, John Longwill. Commission.

XLVIII. The Rev. John Lynd gave notice that, at the next meeting of Synod, he will move for the abolition of the Commission of Synod. Notice to Abolish.

XLIX. The Reports of Presbyteries were called for, and presented, as follows:— Reports of Presbyteries.

Report of the Northern Presbytery.

The Northern Presbytery reports that, in addition to the regular quarterly meetings, there have been held five meetings, convened for the transaction of special business during the year. All the meetings of the court have been characterized by brotherly cordiality of sentiment. The ordinances of religion, both common and sealing, have been dispensed with regularity in all the congregations under the care of Presbytery with, we trust, evident tokens of the Divine favour and blessing. Report N. P.

With peculiar gratitude to the Head of the Church, we report that, during the past year, two of our vacant congregations have had pastors ordained over them. On the 7th of December last, the Rev. John Ramsay, LL.B., T.C.D., was ordained to the office of the Gospel ministry and the pastoral oversight of the congregation of Ballymoney, and on the 10th of the same month Rev. Ezekiel Teaz was ordained to the office of the Gospel ministry and the pastoral oversight of the congregation of Dervock. We hail this accession to our ranks with much pleasure, and we confidently anticipate a manifestation of fresh vigour in our Presbyterial life by the coming in of these young brothers, both of whom have already gained a good degree in the fields of usefulness. The congregations of Ballymoney and Dervock were formerly one under the pastoral care of the late greatly beloved Rev. James Brown. Ordin. Rev. J. Ramsay. Ordin. Rev. E. Teaz.

Report N. P. Two members of Presbytery represent them now instead of one, and we expect that under the oversight of our young brethren they will both continue to be flourishing congregations.

Licence, Mr. A. Holmes. At a meeting of the court, held on the 4th of May, Mr. Archibald Holmes was licensed to preach the Gospel, and has since then been labouring with acceptance throughout the Church.

Temperance. Attention has been given to the subject of temperance, and temperance associations are organized and in working order in most, if not in all of our congregations, and we have reason to believe that the cause of true temperance is making progress among us.

Code. The want of an authorized Book of Order and Discipline has been much felt by the members of the court, and the desire that that want should be soon supplied has been strongly expressed in the court.

Dervock. The congregation of Dervock having obtained a pastor ordained over them, and having qualified to receive aid from the Congregational Aid Fund, is recommended to the Committee of that Fund that it may receive the usual supplement.

Student. There is only one student under the care of Presbytery, Mr. Samuel G. Kennedy, who has fulfilled one session at the Theological Hall. The Presbytery nominates Rev. Mr. Littlejohn and Rev. Mr. Ramsay as members of Commission for the ensuing year.

JOHN RAMSAY, LL.B., Moderator.
J. D. HOUSTON, B.A., Clerk.

Report of the Southern Presbytery.

Report S. P. The Southern Presbytery is composed of six ministerial brethren, and has under its care nine congregations.

During the year they have held four regular, and three special meetings.

Ordination, Ballybay. At the August meeting Mr. J. M. Littlejohn, licentiate of the Northern Presbytery, accepted a call to the congregation of Ballybay, and was ordained to the office of the Gospel ministry, and the oversight of that congregation on the 7th day of September.

Tullyvallen. At a special meeting held on the 7th day of December, a memorial from the Secession Congregation of Tullyvallen, under the care of Monaghan Presbytery of the Secession Synod was laid on the table.

The memorial was largely signed, including the entire session and committee and thirty heads of families.

The memorial declared that as a congregation they had sent to the Monaghan Presbytery their declinature of its authority, and had unanimously resolved to seek connec-

tion with the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and be united to the Fairview congregation. Report S. P.

After mature deliberation, Presbytery resolved to accede to the prayer of the memorial; accordingly, a commission of Presbytery was appointed to visit Tullyvallen, and receive the members of the congregation into the communion of the Church.

The commission having met, and expounded our terms of communion, proceeded to receive the members into the fellowship of the Church.

The question as to the ownership of the Church property then pressed itself on the congregation, and so as to prevent legal proceedings, a friendly conference was held between a commission of the O. S. Synod and a committee of this Presbytery, at which meeting our O. S. brethren clearly established their title to the Church property. So that, while the majority of the congregation are now in the communion of this Church, yet they have lost their house of worship, and have been put to considerable inconvenience thereby. The Church property there

The united congregations of Fairview and Tullyvallen represent considerable strength. They are anxiously looking forward to the settlement of a pastor over them. The field of labour is wide and very promising. They present through their Presbytery a request to this court for a share in the "Congregational Aid Fund." Presbytery strongly urge their claim—confident as they are that the congregation will soon be self-supporting.

At a special meeting held on the 4th day of January, the Rev. A. P. Gillespie, B.A., accepted a call from Loanhead, thereby rendering Rathfriland vacant. Mr. Gillespie removes.

The days of Thanksgiving and Humiliation have been duly observed, and the means of grace dispensed in all our congregations, and waited on with the customary regularity. State of Religion.

The cause of temperance is gaining ground within the limits of our congregations, and the mission schemes of the Church are year by year receiving a more general and liberal support.

Presbytery nominate Rev. G. Douglas and Rev. J. M. Littlejohn as members of Commission.

J. M. Littlejohn, Mod.
A. S. Lyons, Clk.

Report of the Eastern Presbytery.

The Eastern Presbytery report that, since last meeting of Synod, six bi-monthly meetings were held, and one special. With few exceptions, there was a full attendance Report E. P.

Report E. P. of the members at every session, and a deep interest taken in the business before the court.

State of Religion. The ordinances of religion have been dispensed with regularity in all our congregations with stated pastors; and in vacant congregations, owing to a larger number than usual of licentiates, there was a pretty regular supply of the preaching of the Gospel. The Lord's Supper was also dispensed at the usual times with, it is hoped, a good measure of the blessing of the Church's Head.

The days of Thanksgiving and Humiliation appointed by Synod have been observed by all our congregations.

Temperance. The interest in the cause of Temperance is still maintained among our people through preaching the annual sermon appointed by Synod, by Bands of Hope, and other temperance organizations in operation in our different localities.

Revs. Morrell and Maxwell. At our meeting on first December Rev. R. J. Morrell and Rev. W. J. Maxwell, M.A., presented written memorials asking that their resignation of their respective congregations at Knockbracken and Liverpool be accepted, and their credentials granted. Both these gentlemen had announced their resignation to their congregations, which had representatives present, who, on behalf of their congregations, requested the Presbytery to grant them as regular supplies as possible of Gospel ordinances. In these circumstances, Presbytery considered it right to grant the applications at once. Accordingly the pastoral relations subsisting between Mr. Morrell and Knockbracken congregation, and Mr. Maxwell and the Liverpool congregation, were declared to be dissolved, and credentials were given to them.

Licence, Mr. Stewart. At our August meeting Mr. James Alexander S. Stewart, Student of Theology, presented certificates of attendance on all the classes prescribed to candidates for the ministry, both in Arts and Theology. He having delivered, with approbation, the prescribed trials for licence, was then formally licensed to preach the Gospel.

Licence, Messrs. Chancellor and M'Neilly. Also at the October meeting Messrs. William Chancellor, B.A., and Samuel R. M'Neilly, B.A., having their degrees in Arts, presented certificates of attendance for three sessions at our Theological Hall, and delivered, with approbation, the prescribed trials for licence. They were then formally licensed to preach the Gospel. Presbytery rejoice to know that these promising young men have been preaching with acceptance throughout the Church.

Ordination, S. M'Neilly. At our February meeting the congregation of Ballicsmills petitioned Presbytery for moderation in a call. This was granted, and issued unanimously in favour of Mr. Samuel R. M'Neilly, licentiate, which he accepted at our

April meeting. After delivering prescribed trials for ordination, with high approval, at our June meeting, he was ordained to the office of the Gospel ministry and the oversight of Bailiesmills congregation on 22nd instant. Report E. P.

It is hoped that this harmonious and happy settlement will prove beneficial both to pastor and people, in maintaining and extending a Covenanted testimony in that locality, where the late venerated and respected Rev. John W. Graham and Rev. Thomas Dick laboured with such faithfulness.

The congregation of Knockbracken petitioned Presbytery at its June meeting for moderation in a call, which was granted. It has issued in favour of Mr. A. Holmes, licentiate. Presbytery sustained it as a regular Gospel call, and directed it to be sent to the Northern Presbytery. Call to Mr. Holmes.

Rev. Torrens Boyd, Dromara, visited the United States of America during the past autumn and winter to raise money to liquidate a large debt on the church and manse that was pressing heavily on the congregation. We are happy to be able to report that he has returned with the full amount required. Dromara.

The students under the care of Presbytery are Mr. Joseph T. Potts, B.A., who has completed his Theological course of three sessions at our Hall, and will soon be licensed; Mr. William Russell, B.A., having completed a second year at our Theological Hall; Mr. James Park, second year student at Queen's College, Belfast. Students.

MATTHEW HODGE, Moderator.
ROBERT ALLEN, Clerk.

Report of the Western Presbytery.

The Western Presbytery report that, since previous meeting of Synod, they have held four meetings. Report W. P.

On the 1st of July, 1886, a unanimous call was made out at Limavady—and, on the 12th of the same month, a like call was issued at Bready—both for Mr. J. Ramsay, LL.B.; but as he accepted a call from Ballymoney before they could be presented, both of course lapsed. Calls.

On the 20th of January, 1887, a unanimous call was issued at Bready to the Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, B.D., which he did not see his way to accept.

On the 16th of the present month a unanimous call was issued at Broad-lane, Limavady, to Mr. James A. S. Stewart, licentiate, which there has not been an opportunity as yet to present.

Days of Thanksgiving and Humiliation have been observed, and Communions dispensed in the several congregations under Presbytery's care. These and other State of Religion.

Report W. P. stated diets for worship on the Lord's Day have been waited on by the people with customary regularity, and it is hoped not without edification, under the blessing of the Church's Head. The subject of Temperance has been brought under the notice of all our congregations.

As to the two gentlemen who had not expressed regret in reference to a letter that appeared in a newspaper prior to the last election, Presbytery, having made further inquiry, find that one of them neither signed the document, nor authorized anyone to sign it for him, while the other has not lately been in the membership of the Church.

Presbytery nominate Rev. S. Ferguson as a member of the Commission of Synod for the ensuing Synodical year.

W. Dick, Moderator.
R. Nevin, Clerk.

L. The Rev. R. A. M'Farlane reported that the late Mrs. Gailey, of Raphoe, had left certain bequests to the schemes of the Church, the interest only of which is available for a number of years, and that the interest had begun to be available. He laid copies of the will and probate on the table.

It was moved by Rev. A. M. Stavely, seconded by Rev. A. S. Lyons, and passed, that the Rev. R. A. M'Farlane be appointed Receiver of the Gailey Bequests, on behalf of the schemes of the Church.

For. Corresp. LI. The letter to the American Synod was read by the Clerk, and the reply received from that Court.

SESSION VII.

Thursday, 30th June, Seven o'clock, p.m.

Synod resumed, Professor Chancellor in the chair. The Rev. Matthew Hodge conducted devotional exercises.

The minutes of the former sederunt were read and confirmed.

Covenanting. LII. The consideration of the Report of the Committee on Covenanting was resumed. It was moved by Professor Dick, seconded by the Rev. James Littlejohn, and passed unanimously, that the Report be accepted. The Committee was re-appointed, with the addition of the Rev. Gawin Douglas, Rev. S. R. M'Neilly, Rev. John M'Clelland Cromie, and Rev. Wm. Dick, with instructions to give some attention to the method to be adopted when Synod may be prepared to go forward with the work of Covenanting.

Psalmody Council. LIII. Dr. Thompson reported that, as appointed, he attended the Psalmody Council which met in Glasgow,

not in Kampen as formerly fixed; that the delegates from America, with whom the idea originated did not appear; and that preliminary arrangements were made for holding a meeting of the Council at a future time, to be fixed by the secretaries after correspondence with the Psalm Singing Churches.

LIV. The Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, B.D., presented the Report on Temperance. Professor Dick moved, and Rev. Wm. M'Knight seconded its adoption. The Rev. Gawin Douglas and Mr. Robert Long spoke in support of the motion, which was passed unanimously. The Report follows :— Temp. Report

Temperance Report.

If to the watchman on Zion's walls be put the question which echoed in the ear of Israel's seer of old, "What of the night?" an answer more radiant with hope may be returned than that which fell from the prophet's lips. Of our fallen world we may say in truth, not merely "The morning cometh," but "The day has dawned, and the shadows are fleeing away." The night of ignorance, of error, and of moral evil, is evanishing. The dark places of the earth are being penetrated by the light of truth. North, South, East, and West, the mountains are being illuminated with the beams of the Sun of Righteousness. Righteousness, and peace, and joy are being more widely diffused. We can anticipate the epoch when the cause of Christ shall triumph, when, as far as may be, our earth shall be delivered from the curse, and humanity, redeemed from evil, shall realize the glorious liberty of the kingdom of God. This principle, true in its widest sense, finds an important illustration in the sphere of temperance. There the night is vanishing—the day has dawned. A movement has been inaugurated which shall have for its issue the utter and final overthrow of that baneful system which has so long existed in our land. Progress.

The *evidences* of progress everywhere abound, and are patent to the most superficial observer. *In the first place the nature and the use of Alcohol are better known, and more widely recognized.* Evidences.

At a period by no means remote much ignorance on this question existed, and no such sentiment prevailed. Alike by the professional and non-professional community Alcohol was supposed to be a food, and a medicine—if not a panacea, at least an agent potent for good alike to the body and the mind of man. But by the progress of scientific knowledge intelligent opinion has been revolutionized. It is now known to be a poison—useful, perhaps, in the treatment of disease, but always a dangerous specific, and used as a beverage, in quantities however small, fraught Previous Ignorance. Pres. Knowl.

Temp. Report

with evil, containing nothing to build up the system, but tending to paralyse the nerve centres, to impair the vital organs, and to sow the seeds of premature decay. In a word, the mask has been torn off, and the quondam friend stands revealed as the foe of man.

Number of Advocates and Practisers.

Again, a large proportion of the community have arrayed themselves beneath the Temperance banner. No doubt every age of the world's history has had its abstainers. Some from temperament, some from conscience, and some from economic considerations, eschewed the inebriating cup. But the number of such "Reformers before the Reformation" was comparatively few. Moderation was the creed and attempted practice of the Christian part of the community. But in this present age an important change has been realized. Side by side with, and consequent upon, the progress of knowledge, the number of abstainers has been greatly augmented. Conscience enlightened by Scripture, by science and experience, and, no doubt, moved by the Divine Spirit, has constrained the most devoted Christians the most earnest patriots and philantropists, to come out and be separate from that evil system which is antagonistic to the cause of Christ, and to the highest well-being of mankind. This is emphatically an age of total abstainers. They are no longer to be numbered by units, but by tens of thousands. Of their number, position and character, there is the strongest evidence. Public opinion is no longer hostile to Temperance. It is no longer regarded as an honour to be a worshipper of Bacchus.

Workers.

Only further, a numerous and earnest band of workers are engaged in the promotion of this Temperance cause. Like that religion of which it is an outcome and a virtue, Temperance calls us not only to *believe* but to *do*—not only to take our place beneath its banner, but to aid in bearing that banner into the dark domain of the giant alcohol. And this call has not been echoed in the ears of men in vain. Loving hearts and willing hands have come to the help of the Lord against the mighty. In this regard the present presents a favourable contrast to the past. Half a century ago, hardly a Temperance Society existed, and few workers had entered this important field. Now, how changed the scene! Moved by the Bible and the facts of human life, constrained by love to Christ and the souls of men, a legion of noble men, and women too, are doing battle against the common foe. The Church has been aroused from her apathy. Ministers are compelled to lead the van, and a vast array of societies under various names, have been organized to make common cause against the destroyer. The pulpit, the platform and the press, are each contributing their part in effecting this mighty

moral revolution. And not in vain. Society has been leavened with the truth, the tone of public opinion has been elevated, and even legislation has felt the influence of the Temperance sentiment. Said we not well, then, that the day has dawned, that the shadows are fleeing away; and are we not warranted in anticipating the complete and final triumph of the temperance cause? Temp. Report

And if we read the record of the closing year we find no sufficient reason for despondency, but abundant cause for gratitude and hope. The Drink Bill of the United Kingdom for 1886, amounted to £122,905,785, or £363,021 less than in the preceding year. No doubt the decrease is comparatively small, but still the good remains, that there has been a decrease. The stream is flowing in the right direction. Less drunk in year.

If we extend our retrospect to *the whole of the preceding decade*, the survey is yet more adapted to awaken satisfaction. During the past ten years the nation's drink bill has decreased by two and a half million pounds annually. No doubt a portion of the diminution is to be traced to commercial depression, with its concomitant decrease of profits and of wages. But no less truly other causes have been in operation, and have aided in producing such a change. Temperance agencies have been growing in number and in energy, and let us trust that religion has been extending its influence, and that professing Christians have been more fully realizing their duty in relation to the common foe. Ten Years' Decrease.

In regard to the *progress of the temperance question during the past year within our Church's pale*, we have not sufficient information to warrant a definite conclusion. At the usual time the annual circular, with some temperance literature, was forwarded. The *majority* of our ministers *are*, and it is hoped that ALL *will soon see it to be their duty to be*, abstainers. In most of our congregations societies have been organised for advancing this important part of Christian work. We trust that increased effort has been, and will continue to be, put forth; that the truth has been more widely diffused; that more prayer has been offered on behalf of this potent hand-maid of virtue and religion; and that fewer Covenanters have been found lending their character and means to support a system which dishonours God and drowns men's souls in destruction and perdition. Our Church.

Two things, however, are certain. *First, the evil against which we strive is a gigantic one, and the need of aid is urgent.* Nearly £123,000,000 are still worse than wasted in our land in the purchase of strong drink. Of this vast amount Ireland, with all its poverty, contributes no less than £10,000,000, or about £2 per head of the whole population. Evil Great. Need to Work

Temp. Report

The fact is an appalling one. Ten millions devoted by a professedly Christian people to the worship of Bacchus! Ten millions worse than squandered in the purchase of a thing which brings in its train poverty, disease, and death—nay, which, with all the malignity of a demon, pursues its hapless victim beyond the grave, and involves him in utter and eternal ruin. Are not facts such as these more eloquent than words? Do they not put a tongue in every wound of our bleeding country, which cries aloud for the aid of every patriot and philanthropist? Above all, do they not echo in our ears the voice of God Himself—a voice which should impress the heart and evoke the energies of every Christian—"Who will rise up for Me against evil-doers? Who will stand up for Me against the workers of iniquity?"

Church's Duty.

Another fact is no less clear—Covenanters, instead of lagging in the rere, should be the foremost in this holy war. In the Providence of God we have been singled out as the objects of special favour. It is our glory and our happiness that, among the Churches of the Reformation, we approximate most nearly to the Scriptural platform. We are honoured to bear aloft a banner for the sum total of revealed truth. But let us remember that privilege and obligation go hand-in-hand. Our creed should not merely be treasured up among our archives, but embodied in our character and life. More highly favoured than others, we should be better than others, more consistent in shunning complicity with evil, and the foremost in active effort for the overthrow of all that dishonours God and ruins men. Of this principle our duty in relation to the drink traffic is an evident corollary. Our Church should be a grand Total Abstinence Society, and all our ministers and people both advocates and members. No Covenanter's hand should touch the inebriating cup; no Covenanter's money should be cast into the treasury of Satan; no Covenanter's knee should bow before the shrine of Bacchus. With one heart and mind we should strive together, each in our own place, on behalf of the temperance cause, cheered and stimulated by the assured hope that one day the curse shall be removed, the victims of drink shall be delivered, and temperance, with all its blessings, shall prevail.

Respectfully submitted.

The Committee was re-appointed.

Com. F. M.

LV. The Committee on the Foreign Mission was re-appointed.

Adm. A. M. F.

LVI. The Administrators of the Aged Ministers' Fund were re-appointed, with Dr. Chancellor, Convener.

LVII. The Rev. A. M. Stavely moved, and Rev. Gawin Douglas seconded, that the Clerk be instructed to address an earnest circular to the congregations of the Church, urging the claims of the Theological Hall, now that a second Professor has been appointed; and that ministers be instructed to preach on the importance of the Christian ministry, and the necessity for supporting adequately the Theological Hall on the Sabbath preceding the day on which the collection is taken. Passed unanimously. Hall Circular.

LVIII. The Committee of Superintendence of the Theological Hall was appointed as follows:—The Professors, Revs. Gawin Douglas, S. R. M'Neilly, Dr. Thompson, Ezekiel Teaz, A. M. Stavely, Wm. Dick, R. Nevin (Convener). Hall Com.

LIX. The Committee on Widows' and Orphans' Fund was appointed as follows:—Rev. A. S. Lyons (Convener), S. Ferguson, Professor Chancellor, Dr. Thompson, Wm. M'Knight, with Messrs. Thomas M'Farlane, Robert Long, Benjamin Thompson, and Josiah Lyons. Com. W. and O. Fund.

LX. Professor Dick was appointed to deliver the opening public lecture of the Theological Hall, and the Rev. Robert Nevin to deliver the closing lecture. Hall Lectures.

LXI. It was moved by the Rev. R. Allen, and seconded by the Rev. James Littlejohn, that the thanks of Synod be given to the members of the Belfast congregation for the kind hospitality extended to the brethren during the Session. Passed unanimously. Vote of Thanks.

The Minutes of the several sederunts were read and confirmed; and Synod was adjourned to meet again in Belfast, on the Monday after the last Sabbath in May, 1888, at 7.30 p.m.

Attested by

R. Nevin, Synod Clerk.
J. D. Houston, Assist. Clerk.

APPENDIX.

SYNODICAL OFFICERS, COMMITTEES, &c.

Synodical Officers.

MODERATOR.

Rev. J. A. CHANCELLOR, D.D., Belfast.

CLERK.

Rev. ROBERT NEVIN, Londonderry.

ASSISTANT CLERK.

Rev. J. D. HOUSTON, B.A., Coleraine.

PROFESSORS.

Systematic Theology—Rev. Josias A. Chancellor, D.D., Belfast.
Hebrew, Biblical Criticism and Exegesis, and Church History—Rev. James Dick, M.A., Kilraughts, Ballymoney.

TRUSTEES OF SYNOD'S FUNDS.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, D.D. | Mr. W. W. Houston.
Mr. William Reid. | Mr. James Meharg.

GENERAL TREASURER.

Mr. JAMES MEHARG, 1, Ardlussa, Belfast.

AUDITORS.

Mr. Samuel Aikin. | Mr. James Reynolds.

TRUSTEES FOR FOREIGN MISSION.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, D.D. | Mr. James Meharg.

Secretaries.

SECRETARIES OF THE SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

Colonial Mission—Rev. Samuel Ferguson, B.A., Londonderry.
Foreign and Jewish Mission—Rev. James D. Houston, B.A., Coleraine
Theological Hall—Rev. Robert Nevin, Londonderry.
Congregational Aid—Rev. John Lynd, Ballylaggan.
Widows' and Orphans' Fund—Rev. A. S. Lyons, Newry.
Temperance—Rev. R. A. M'Farlane, M.A., B.D., Stranorlar.
N.B.—These Secretaries act also as Treasurers for their respective schemes.

Commission.

COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

THE MODERATOR.

Rev. John Lynd. | Rev. Samuel Ferguson, B.A.
,, J. D. Houston, B.A. | ,, Robert Nevin, *Clerk*.
,, John Ramsay, LL.B. | Mr. Samuel Graham.
,, Robert Allen. | ,, Thomas Henry.
,, Gawin Douglas. | ,, Wm. M'Millan.
,, J. M. Littlejohn | ,, J. Longwill.

Hall Com.

COMMITTEE OF SUPERINTENDENCE OF THEOLOGICAL HALL.

The Professors. | Rev. Ezekiel Teaz.
Rev. Gawin Douglas. | ,, A. M. Stavely.
,, S. R. M'Neilly, B.A. | ,, William Dick, M.A.
,, Dr. Thompson. | ,, R. Nevin, *Convener*.

Con. Aid Com.

COMMITTEE ON CONGREGATIONAL AID SCHEME.

Rev. John Lynd, *Convener*. | Mr. William Reid.
,, A. S. Lyons. | ,, Thomas Henry.
,, The Moderator. | ,, W. J. Aikin.
,, J. D. Houston, B.A. | ,, J. Longwill.
,, R. A. M'Farlane, M.A., B.D. | ,, Wm. Y. Patterson.

Rev. Professor Dick.

Adm. E. F.

ADMINISTRATORS OF EDUCATION FUND.

Rev. A. Savage. | Rev. R. Nevin.
,, James Littlejohn. | ,, S. Ferguson, B.A.

Rev. J. A. Chancellor, D.D., *Convener*.

ADMINISTRATORS OF AGED MINISTERS' FUND. Adm. A. M. F.

The Moderator.

Rev. William Dick, M.A.	Mr. Samuel Graham.
,, W. S. Ferguson.	,, R. Copeland.
,, Dr. Thompson, *Convener*.	,, Thomas Henry.

COMMITTEE ON WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND. Wid. & Orph. Com.

Rev. A. S. Lyons, *Convener*.	Mr. Thomas M'Farlane.
,, Samuel Ferguson.	,, R. Long.
,, J. A. Chancellor, D.D.	,, Benjamin Thompson.
,, Dr. Thompson.	,, Josiah Lyons.
,, Wm. M'Knight.	

Honorary Members—Mrs. Hurst, Manchester; Messrs. R. Cooke, Derry; S. Patton, Portrush; James Rea, Belfast; D. Hopkins, Limavady.

COMMITTEE ON CAUSES OF THANKSGIVING AND HUMILIATION. Causes.

Rev. Wm. M'Knight.	Rev. J. M. Littlejohn.

DEPUTATION TO THE SCOTCH SYNOD. Dept. to Sch. Synod.

The Moderator, Dr. Thompson, and Rev. John Ramsay, LL.B.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSION. For. Miss. Com.

The Moderator.	Rev. A. M. Stavely.
Rev. J. D. Houston, B.A. *Convener*	,, Professor Dick.
,, R. A. M'Farlane.	,, Dr. Thompson.
,, Torrens Boyd.	Mr. William Reid.
,, A. S. Lyons.	

COMMITTEE ON COLONIAL MISSION. Col. Mission Com.

Rev. Samuel Ferguson, *Convener*	Rev. Ezekiel Teaz.
,, Torrens Boyd.	,, A. M. Stavely.

COMMITTEE ON CODE OF DISCIPLINE. Com. on Code.

Rev. Professor Dick, *Convener*.	The Moderator.
,, John Lynd.	Rev. J. D. Houston.
,, S. Thompson, LL.D.	

COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE. Tem. Com.

Rev. J. Littlejohn, *President*.	Rev. S. Ferguson
,, J. D. Houston	,, J. Dick
,, G. Douglas	,, R. A. M'Farlane, *Secty*.
,, J. A. Chancellor	Mr. Alexander Gardner
,, A. S. Lyons	,, Mr. Thomas Henry
,, J. Lynd	,, James Stewart
	,, John Potts

SYNODICAL APPOINTMENTS. Synodical Appointments

COLLECTION for Foreign & Jewish Mission....1st Sabbath, December.
,, Hall Fund.....1st Sabbath, February.
,, Colonial Mission .....1st Sabbath, May.
,, Synodical & Incidental Fund....1st Sabbath, August.
,, Congregational Aid (by cards), in April and October.

The Theological Hall opens in Belfast on Tuesday, 16th Nov., 1887; Closes Tuesday, after 2nd Sabbath March, 1888.

The Commission meets in Belfast on Wednesday, 17th Nov., 1887, and Wednesday, after 2nd Sabbath, March, 1888.

Day of Public Thanksgiving, last Thursday, November, 1887.

Day of Public Fasting, last Thursday, January, 1888.

Annual Meeting of Synod, in Belfast, on the Monday after the last Sabbath of May, 1888, at 7.30, p.m.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES. Pres. Appts.

NORTHERN—First *Wednesday* in February, May, August and Nov.
SOUTHERN—First *Tuesday* in February, May, August and Nov.
EASTERN—First *Wednesday* in Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., and Dec.
WESTERN—First *Wednesday* in February, May, August, and Nov.

Colonial Mission Account,

For the Year ending the 30th June, 1886-'87.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
Coleraine ..	2	2	5
Donegal Society ..	4	0	0
Grange ..	1	0	0
Drumbolg ..	1	13	6
Limavady ..	2	11	0
Ballyclare ..	1	13	0
Bready ..	2	3	3
Kilraughts ...	4	8	0
Loughbrickland ..	1	15	0
Kellswater ..	1	11	6
Mulvin ..	1	3	6
Knockbracken ..	0	15	0
Interest per Mr. Meharg	22	10	0
Stranorlar ..	1	8	0
Bailiesmills ..	1	0	0
Faughan ..	2	0	0
Ballymoney ..	3	0	0
Killinchy ..	0	16	0
Belfast Juvenile Missionary Association ..	4	0	0
Dervock ..	2	4	6
Balance from last year..	5	10	0
Newtownards ..	0	11	6
Garvagh ..	0	18	0
Ballyclare and Larne (additional) ..	0	12	0
Dr. Martin (Antioch) ..	1	0	0
	£70	6	2

Cr.	£	s.	d.
Rev. A. M. Moore ..	45	0	0
,, J. R. Lawson ..	20	0	0
,, Mr. M'Fall, ..	5	0	0
Expenses ..	0	10	0
	£70	10	0
Balance due Secretary	0	3	10

Synodical and Incidental Fund,

In Account with Clerk of Synod, 1886-87.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Congregational collections viz.:—			
Bailiesmills ..	1	0	0
Ballenon ..	1	9	6
Ballybay ..	2	0	6
Ballyclare and Larne ..	2	5	0
Ballylaggan ..	1	17	6
Ballylane ..	1	2	0
Ballymoney ..	0	0	0
Belfast ..	4	16	7
Bready ..	2	16	2
Cloughmills ..			
Coleraine ..	2	3	10
Convoy ..			
Dervock ..	1	5	1
Donegal ..			
Drimbolg ..	1	8	0
Dromara ..	0	0	0
Dromore ..			
Fairview ..			
Faughan ..	1	15	6
Garvagh ..	1	0	0
Grange ..	1	1	4
Kellswater ..	2	0	0
Killinchy ..	0	14	0
Kilraughts ..	4	7	6
Knockbracken ..	1	0	0
Limavady ..	2	0	0
Liverpool ..			
Londonderry ..			
Loughbrickland ..	1	11	4
Mulvin ..	1	10	0
Newry ..			
Newtownards ..	0	14	6
Rathfriland ..	1	0	0
Ringrash ..			
Stranorlar ..	1	9	7
	£42	7	11

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Clerk of Synod ..	15	0	0
Assistant Clerk ..	5	0	0
Proportion Travelling Expenses, Commission and Hall Committee in November ..	2	6	4
Proportion Travelling Expenses, Commission and Hall Committee in March ..	3	4	0
Delegates' Expenses, Psalmody, Conference, including Pulpit, Supply, ..	4	15	6
Printing 100 Course of Study, ..	0	6	0
Prntg. Report in Minutes,	2	0	0
Printing 100 Separate Minutes ..	1	12	0
Clerk of Commission ..	1	0	0
Postages ..	0	6	0
Expenses of Deputation to Scotch Synod ..	1	10	0
Balance transferred to Hall Account ..	5	8	1
	£42	7	11

Theological Hall Fund,

In Account with the Secretary, 1886-'87.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Congregational collections viz :—			
Bailiesmills ..	1	5	0
Ballenon ..	1	13	4
Ballybay .	1	10	0
Ballyclare and Larne ..	2	3	0
Ballylaggan ..	2	8	6
Ballylane ..	1	8	3
Ballymoney ..	3	18	6
Belfast ..	6	10	0
Bready ..	2	6	0
Coleraine ..	2	3	11
Convoy ..			
Dervock ..	1	19	2
Donegal ..	2	0	0
Drimbolg ..	1	17	0
Dromara ..	2	11	5
Dromore ..	0	17	9
Fairview ..			
Faughan ..	1	18	6
Garvagh ..	1	0	0
Grange ..	1	8	0
Kellswater ..	2	2	0
Killinchy ..	0	17	8
Kilraughts ..	5	10	6
Knockbracken ..	1	0	0
Limavady ..	2	5	0
Liverpool ..			
Londonderry ..	8	3	10
Loughbrickland ..	1	11	0
Mulvin ..	1	15	0
Newry ..	1	1	6
Newtownards ..	0	13	2
Rathfriland ..	2	11	6
Ringrash ..	0	15	0
Stranorlar ..	2	0	0
Interest on Morrow's Legacy, ..	2	10	0
Dr. Martin, Antioch ..	1	0	0
Balance from Synodical and Incidental Fund	5	8	1
Balance due Secretary..	23	1	2
	£101	3	9

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Balance from last Account ..	9	0	1
Professor's Salary ..	60	0	0
Supplies to Professor's pulpit ..	30	0	0
Caretaker of Hall ..	2	0	0
Circular and Postages..	0	3	8
	£101	3	9

CONGREGATIONAL AID FUND,

1886-'87.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	Returns.
To Balance from last year,	8	14	6	
Collected by Mr. A. M'Quitty, Carrickfergus,	3	7	0	
Belfast	30	0	0	
Belfast Juv. Miss. Assoc.	10	10	0	2
Londonderry	18	0	0	2
Kilraughts	14	6	9	2
Loughbrickland	10	9	0	2
Mulvin	12	0	0	2
Ballyclabber	10	15	9	2
Grange	9	3	4	2
Dromara	10	12	10	2
Faughan	11	0	6	2
Knockbracken	4	6	0	2
Ballyclare and Larne	9	9	6	2
Limavady	6	9	0	2
Ballymoney	11	11	6	2
Kellswater	7	7	6	2
Rathfriland	5	0	8	2
Ballylaggan,	8	12	0	2
Stranorlar	3	12	6	1
Donegal Society	6	0	0	1
Garvagh	6	0	0	2
Killinchy	6	0	0	2
Liverpool	5	0	0	1
Bailiesmills	6	0	0	1
Dervock	5	17	0	2
Magherafelt	1	10	0	1
Newtownards	3	2	6	2
Bready	2	9	6	1
Dromore	2	8	3	2
Ballenon	2	8	0	1
Drimbolg	2	8	0	1
Newry	2	13	0	2
Ringrash	0	13	3	1
Mrs. Hurst,	5	0	0	
Rev. Dr. Martin	2	10	0	
Miss Cathcart, Ballylaggan,	1	0	0	
Interest from Synod's Treasurer, Mr. Meharg,	42	10	0	
Balance	2	7	3	
Total,	£324	1	7	

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Fairview Supplement	10	0	0
Garvagh ,,	32	14	3
Killinchy ,,	27	14	3
Loughbrickland,,	28	14	3
Ballyclare ,,	17	14	3
Ballylane ,,	22	14	3
Newtownards ,,	27	14	3
Mulvin ,,	22	14	3
Grange ,,	47	14	3
Larne ,,	18	0	0
Liverpool ,,	37	14	3
Magherafelt ,,	10	0	0
Dromore ,,	7	0	0
Dervock ,,	5	14	3
Commission Expenses— Nov. and March	7	12	10
Postages, 11s 3d, reduced to	0	6	3
	£324	1	7

Syrian Mission General Account, 1886-'87.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year..	177	17	3
Repaid from Building Fd.	50	0	0
½ Bal. Int. Manchester Trustees ..	7	7	3
Alex. Martin, Killyleagh	1	0	0
A Friend, Ballyclabber (bereaved family) ..	1	0	0
Collected by Miss M'Clay and Miss Hyndman..	4	13	0
Coll. by Miss Hastings..	2	13	6
„ „ Wilson ..	1	17	6
„ „ M'Farlane	0	7	6
„ „ Irwin ..	0	2	6
„ „ Allen ..	1	0	6
Newry Cong. (bereaved family) ..	0	13	6
Mrs. Patton ditto ..	3	0	0
Mrs. Patton (Mission) ..	3	0	0
Killinchy Congregation	2	0	0
Mr. John Hewitt ..	1	0	0
Dervock Congregation..	3	0	0
Miss Clarke, Dervock, in memory of mother ..	1	0	0
Londonderry Congregation (for Schools) ..	10	6	4
Mrs. Sturgeon, Newry (bereaved family) ..	0	3	0
Ballymena Society Box (Schools) ..	1	0	0
Ballenon ..	2	0	0
Newry (additional, destitute family) ..	0	12	0
Bready ..	4	2	2
Miss Cathcart, Glenleavy	1	0	0
Grange ..	1	14	0
Mr. Thomas Macdonnell (Schools) ..	1	0	0
An American Friend ..	1	0	0
Mr. S. Wilson, Limavady (for bereaved family)	0	10	0
Faughan Congregation	3	0	0
Rev. S. Ferguson ..	1	0	0
Lancasterian Sab.-schools per Mr. W. J. Graham (Schools) ..	4	0	2
Knockbracken (ber. fam.)	2	10	0
Ballymoney ..	4	12	3
Mr. W. Millar, Kellswater (Schools) ..	1	0	0
Ditto (for bereaved family)	0	5	0
Belfast ..	6	17	2
Ballyclare ..	1	18	0
Ringrash ..	1	7	6
Stranorlar ..	3	2	0
Stranorlar Sabbath-sch. Miss. Box ..	0	15	2
Donegal Society ..	5	0	0
Newry ..	2	0	7
Dervock ..	3	2	6
Coleraine Society ..	1	9	8½
Ballyclabber Society ..	0	18	5½
A Family in Ballyclabber Society ..	0	10	0

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Kellswater ..	2	5	0
Ballyclabber ..	2	19	7
James Nevin (Fam. Box)	0	13	7
Rev. J. D. Houston ditto	0	10	0
Ballylane ..	1	14	6
Rosa M'Knight Miss. Box (for Schools) ..	0	7	0
Mrs. M'Knight (Schools)	1	0	0
Rathfriland ..	3	10	0
Grange, ..	1	3	0
Bailiesmills ..	2	0	0
Mrs. Brown's Children's Box ..	0	13	6
Rathfriland Sab.-school	1	19	1½
Banfield ..	0	8	6
3 Friends, Rathfriland ..	0	2	6
A. Copeland, „ ..	0	10	0
Mrs. Hurst, Manchester	5	0	0
Kilraughts ..	6	10	0
Ballylaggan ..	5	12	6
Mrs. Toland, Saintfield (for Schools) ..	0	10	0
Dromore ..	1	0	0
Coll. by Mrs. M'Ewen, Dromore ..	0	5	6
A Friend of Misssions (Schools) ..	0	5	0
Liverpool Juv. Home and For. Miss. Committee	1	0	0
Don., Mr. J. Sutherland	0	2	0
Drimbolg ..	2	18	0
Rev. J. M'C. Cromie ..	1	0	0
Mulvin ..	1	9	6
Dromara ..	5	0	0
Loughbrickland ..	1	13	10
Newtownards ..	1	12	0
Creevagh (Cards) ..	30	16	6
„ (Collection)..	2	16	8
Limavady ..	3	14	0
Convoy ..	1	0	0
Fairview ..	1	0	0
Prayer Meeting in Mary M'Dowell's, Knockbracken ..	0	12	9
Part Int. on Hurst Beq., per J. Meharg ..	50	0	0
Mr. A. Christie, London	5	0	0
Ditto (bereaved family)..	1	0	0
A Friend, Faughan ..	0	10	0
Garvagh ..	1	15	0
Newtownards Miss. Box	1	10	0
Int. from J. Meharg ..	126	8	10
A Friend, Ballymoney,..	1	0	0
Belfast Juv. Miss. Asso.	43	0	0
Mulvin Juv. Miss. Asso.	10	0	0
Rev. Mr. Allen's Box, (Family) ..	0	6	3
Dr. Martin, Antioch ..	5	0	0
A Friend ..	0	8	0
Tandragee ..	1	0	0
Interest on Gailey Beq.,	1	3	6
	£669	16	7½

General Financial Statement

For the year ending May, 1887.

Aged Ministers' Fund.

June 28, '86.				June, '86. - By Balance	£3572	15	1
To Loughbrickland Cong.,	£30	0	0	Interest	177	2	9
June, '87.—To Balance	3724	17	10	Miss Adams	5	0	0
	£3754	17	10		£3754	17	10

The Henry Donation.

To Colonial Mission	£16	13	4	June, '86.—By Balance,	£1000	0	0
Foreign Mission	16	13	4	Interest	50	0	0
Congregational Aid	16	13	4				
June, '87.—To Balance	1000	0	0				
	£1050	0	0		£1050	0	0

The Scott Bequest.

To Colonial Mission	£5	0	0	June, '86.—By Balance	£400	0	0
Foreign Mission	5	0	0	Interest	20	0	0
Congregational Aid	10	0	0				
June, '87.—To Balance	400	0	0				
	£420	0	0		£420	0	0

The Morrow Legacy.

To Theo. Hall	£2	10	0	June, '86.—By Balance	£50	0	0
June, '87.—To Balance	50	0	0	Interest	2	10	0
	£52	10	0		£52	10	0

The Musgrave Donation.

To Foreign Mission	£5	0	0	June, '86.—By Balance	£100	0	0
June, '87.—To Balance	100	0	0	Interest	5	0	0
	£105	0	0		£105	0	0

Australian Mission Fund.

To Policy of Life Assurance	£6	2	9	June, '86.—By Balance	£277	12	3
June, '87.—To Balance	285	7	4	Interest	13	17	7
	£291	9	10		£291	9	10

CONGREGATIONAL AID (HOME MISSION) FUND.

To Cash Cong. Aid	£10	0	0	June, '86.—By Balance	£200	0	0
June, '87.—To Balance	200	0	0	Interest	10	0	0
	£210	0	0		£210	0	0

Bicentenary Fund.

June 7, 1886.—To Syrian				June, '86.—By Balance	£658	11	8
Miss. Buildings	£100	0	0	Interest	21	4	8
Aug. 13, Syrian Miss. do.	150	0	0				
,, 18, Syrian Miss. do.	20	0	0				
June, '87.—To Balance	£410	3	5				
	£680	3	5		£680	3	5

General Financial Statement.—Continued.

For the Year ending May, 1887.

JOSEPH HENRY'S BEQUEST.

June, '87.—To Balance	£239	15	4	June, '86.—By Balance	£230	10	11
				Interest ..	9	4	5
	£239	15	4		£239	15	4

FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

To Cash Foreign Mission..	£7	18	10	June, '86.—By Balance ..	£40	0	0
June, '87.—To Balance ..	220	0	0	Miss Jane Hurst's Bequest,	180	0	0
				Interest ..	7	18	10
	£227	18	10		£227	18	10

The Kennedy Donation.

To Foreign Mission ..	£0	16	8	June, '86.—By Balance ..	£50	0	0
Colonial Mission ..	0	16	8	Interest ..	2	10	0
Congregational Aid ..	0	16	8				
June, '87.—To Balance ..	50	0	0				
	£52	10	0		£52	10	0

MANCHESTER TRUSTEES.

To Congregational Aid, ..	£7	7	3	June, '86.—By Balance	£414	14	6
Syrian Mission, ..	7	7	3	Interest ..	20	0	0
Foreign Mission ..	1	0	0				
Liverpool Cong. ..	19	0	0				
June, '87.—To Balance ..	400	0	0				
	£434	14	6		£434	14	6

MISS ADAMS' BEQUEST.

To Aged Ministers' Fund ..	£5	0	0	June, '86.—By Balance ..	£400	0	0
Foreign Mission ..	5	0	0	Interest ..	20	0	0
Congregational Aid ..	5	0	0				
Widow & Orphan Fund	5	0	0				
June, '87.—To Balance ..	400	0	0				
	£420	0	0		£420	0	0

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

June, '87.—To Balance	£1362	3	5	June, '86.—By Balance	£1159	17	10
				Miss J. Hurst's Bequest,	90	0	0
				Rev. A. Lyons (collected)	40	0	0
				Miss Adams' Beq. '85 & '86	10	0	0
				Interest ..	62	5	7
	£1362	3	5		£1362	3	5

Education Fund.

To Beneficiaries ..	£10	0	0	June, '86.—By Balance	£585	4	3
Theo. Hall & Insurance	10	10	0	Interest ..	29	5	3
June, '87.—To Balance ..	593	10	5				
	£614	0	5		£614	0	5

DR. CHARLES HURST BEQUEST.

April 7, '87—To Syrian Miss.	50	0	0	June '86.—By Balance	£3000	0	0
May, '87— „ „ „	85	0	0	Interest ..	135	0	0
June '87.—To Balance ..	3000	0	0				
	£3135	0	0		£3135	0	0

Church Funds' Balance Sheet.

For the year ending May, 1887.

Assets.				Liabilities.			
June '87.—Mortgages	£6928	19	10	Aged Ministers' Fund	£3724	17	10
Bonds and other Securities	5812	7	1	Australian Mission ..	285	7	4
				Miss Adams' Bequest ..	400	0	0
				Bicentenary Fund ..	410	3	5
				Cong. Aid (Home Mission)	200	0	0
				Educ. Fund ..	593	19	5
				Foreign Mission ..	220	0	0
				Henry Donation ..	1000	0	0
				Joseph Henry's and Kilraughts Congregation ..	239	15	4
				Kennedy's Donation ..	50	0	0
				Morrow Legacy ..	50	0	0
				Musgrave Donation ..	100	0	0
				Manchester Trustees ..	400	0	0
				Scott Bequest ..	400	0	0
				Dr. Charles Hurst Bequest	3000	0	0
				Widows' & Orphans' Fund	1362	3	5
				Interest Account ..	200	19	1
				Due Treasurer ..	104	1	1
	£12741	6	11		£12741	6	11

We have examined above Statement, together with the Securities, and find same correct.

JAMES REYNOLDS.
SAMUEL AIKIN.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CONGREGATIONS.	MINISTERS.	Number of Elders.	Number of Deacons or Committee.	Number of Communicants.	Sabbath School Teachers.	Sabbath School Scholars.
Northern Presbytery						
Ballymoney ..	J. Ramsey ..	9	8	190	7	60
Ballyclabber ..	J. D. Houston ..	8	13	140	1	23
Ballylaggan ..	John Lynd ..	8	6	195	9	100
Kellswater ..	J. M'C. Cromie ..	5	16	187	14	170
Garvagh ..	James Littlejohn ..	6	4	68	1	14
Dervock ..	E. Teaz ..	7	7	145		
Drimbolg ..	J. Thompson ..	6	9	225	11	86
Kilraughts ..	James Dick ..	10	13	190		
Ringrash ..						
Magherafelt ..						
Southern Presbytery						
Ballylane ..	Wm. M'Knight ..	3	8	92	3	33
Ballenon ..	Alex. Savage ..	6	8	190	7	90
Loughbrickland ..	Gawin Douglas ..	4	7	100	6	40
Creevagh ..	John M. Littlejohn ..	9	10	210	1	60
Rathfriland ..		7	12	215	11	70
Fairview & Tullyvallen ..		2	6	60		
Newry ..	A. S. Lyons ..					
Grange ..	W. S. Ferguson ..					
Dromore ..						
Eastern Presbytery						
Bailiesmills ..	S. R. M'Neilly ..	2	12	98	6	25
Belfast ..	J. A. Chancellor ..	17	11	430	70	400
Killinchy ..	Matthew Hodge ..	4	2	51	1	20
Knockbracken ..		6	6	143	4	40
Newtownards ..	Robert Allen ..	2	4	45	5	30
Ballyclare & Larne ..	A. M. Stavely ..	6	7	90	4	30
Dromara ..	Torrens Boyd .	6	14	350	20	220
Liverpool ..						
Western Presbytery						
Limavady ..		7	7	80		
Londonderry ..	R. Nevin ..					
Mulvin ..	Wm. Dick ..					
Faughan ..	Samuel Ferguson ..	3	3	161	class	25
Stranorlar ..	R. A. M'Farlane ..	3	0	97	6	55
Bready ..						
Convoy ..						

Statistical Table—Contributions.

Foreign Mission.			Congregational Aid.			Theological Hall.			Synodical and Incidental.			Miscellaneous.			Ministers' Salary.			Total Contributions.		
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
4	5	9	11	11	6	3	18	1				7	16	8	130	0	0	170	0	0
6	19	4	10	13	0	2	3	11	2	4	1	2	2	9	100	0	0*	124	3	0
5	12	6	8	12	6	2	7	6	1	7	6	53	14	5	130	0	0*	201	14	0
3	5	0	6	16	3	1	17	6	2	0	0				130	0	0*	139	15	0
1	15	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	50	0	0	62	15	0
			6	13	0															
2	8	0	2	8	4	1	8	0	1	17	0	28	19	3	150	0	0	189	4	1‡
6	10	0	14	6	9	5	10	6	4	7	6	6	19	6	140	0	0	177	14	3
3	1	6	6	0	6	1	8	3	1	0	2	8	18	2	70	0	0	90	8	0
2	0	0	2	8	0	1	13	4	1	9	6	6	17	0	78	0	0	92	7	0
1	13	10	10	8	6	1	11	0	1	11	4	11	15	0	75	0	0	102	9	0
33	13	2	3	5	0	1	10	0	2	0	6	1	3	8	110	0	0*	151	12	0
7	2	8	6	7	8	2	5	8	1	0	0	47	8	6	90	0	0†	154	4	0
1	0	0	3	11	0							4	13	3	75	0	0*			
3	0	0	6	0	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	13	0	0	100	0	0	90	0	0
98	0	6	40	16	2	5	0	0	5	14	1	43	12	8	350	0	0	543	3	0
3	0	0	6	0	0	0	17	0	0	14	0				90	0	0*	101	1	0
3	0	0	4	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	28	0	0	100	0	0*	140	0	0
1	18	6	3	2	6	0	13	4	0	14	8	0	11	6	54	0	0	61	1	0
2	11	0	9	9	6	2	3	0	2	5	0	4	0	8	80	0	0	100	9	2
5	0	0	10	12	10	1	16	0							111	15	3	129	4	1
15	8	6	6	9	0	2	5	0	2	0	0	4	1	0				30	3	0
4	0	0	10	10	6	1	10	6	1	12	4½				100	0	0	137	12	7½
3	17	2	6	12	6	1	19	6	1	9	7				100	0	0	113	18	9

* And Manse.
† For Nine Months.
‡ Exclusive of ordinary Sabbath Collections.

Syrian Mission General Account, 1886-87.

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Dr. Martin, ½-y'rs salary	75	0	0
Dr. Martin, for schools	40	0	0
Miss C. ½-year's salary..	31	17	6
Deficit in Schools acc...	50	0	0
Circulars and Postage ..	0	5	0
Dr. Martin, for Schools	20	0	0
Sent to bereaved family	4	13	6
Dr. Martin for Schools..	30	0	0
Bereaved family ..	3	15	0
Travelling Exp., Nov. Commission ..	2	6	4
Circulars and Postage ..	0	4	0
Dr. Martin, ½-y'rs salary	75	0	0
Bereaved family ..	0	5	0
Miss C. ½-year's salary..	31	17	6

Cr.	£	s.	d.
Premium on Dr. Martin's life policy ..	13	9	4
Printing Report in Cov.	2	0	0
Missionary Boxes ..	0	14	7
Travelling Exp., March Commission ..	3	4	0
Travelling Exp. to joint meeting of Committee	1	18	9
Dr. Martin for Schools	50	0	0
Travelling Exp. of Com.	1	14	6
Incidental Expenses ..	1	5	0
Balance ..230	6	7½	
£669	16	7½	

PUBLICATION FUND,

In Account with Clerk of Synod. 1886-'87.

Dr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year's Account ..	13	16	0½
Collections for Publishing Code of Discipline, viz :—			
Bailiesmills ..	0	15	0
Ballybay ..	1	3	8
Ballylaggan ..	1	0	0
Ballenon ..	1	7	9
Ballyclare and Larne ..	1	15	8
Ballymoney ..	2	0	0
Belfast ..	3	19	8
Coleraine ..	1	8	8
Convoy ..	0	11	8
Dervock ..	0	17	0
Drimbolg ..	1	2	0
Fairview ..	0	13	3
Faughan ..	0	12	0
Garvagh ..	0	15	0
Grange ..	0	12	0
Kellswater ..	1	8	0
Killinchy ..	0	14	6
Kilraughts ..	2	11	6
Limavady ..	1	10	0
Londonderry ..	1	0	0
Mulvin ..	1	0	0
Nowry ..	0	12	0
Stranorlar ..	0	12	0
£41	17	4½	

Cr.	£	s.	d.
By Printing 2,000 Foreign Mission Report ..	2	5	0
Printing 2,000 Temperance Report ..	2	2	6
Carriage and Postage ..	0	15	0
Circulars on Elective Franchise ..	1	6	0
Balance on hand ..	35	8	10½
£41	17	4½	

Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

SUMS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR.

1886. Dr.	£	s.	d.
July 2nd—Family of late Mrs. Dr. Houston—In Memoriam, ..	19	4	6
,, 17th—Rev. M. Hodge (2nd instalment), ...	2	0	0
Aug. 21st—Rev. J. D. Houston	1	0	0
Sept. 30th—Mr. R. Long, Newry, ...	2	0	0
Oct. 25th—David Gregg, Esq., U.S., ...	10	0	0
Nov. 13th—Dr. Martin (5th instalment), ...	3	0	0
„ 22nd—Rev. J. D. Houston (last instalment), ...	1	0	0
„ „ —Mr. William Williamson, Coleraine, ...	1	0	0
Dec. 8th—Mr. M'Auley, Dromara (last instalment of £5 sub.), ..	3	0	0
1887.			
Mar. 16th—Mr. D. Longwell, Faughan, Waterside, ...	1	0	0
Per Rev. J. D. Houston.			
Mar. 16th—Mr. David M'Collum, Coleraine, ...	1	0	0
„ „ —Mr. Robert M'Cahan, do	0	3	0
„ „ —Mr. Samuel Christie, do	0	2	0
„ „ —Mr. Campbell Young, do	0	2	0
„ „ —Mrs. William Smith, do	0	3	0
„ „ —Rev. Samuel Ferguson (2nd instalment), ...	1	0	0
May 17th—Mr. A. Christie, London, ...	2	0	0
June 28th—Rev. James Littlejohn, Garvagh (5th instalment), ..	2	0	0
Per Rev. J. D. Houston.			
June 28th—Mrs. Patterson, Coleraine congregation, ...	0	5	0
„ „ —Miss Simpson, do do	0	1	0
„ „ —Mr. J. M'Williams, do do	0	10	0
„ „ —Rev. Torrens Boyd (4th instalment), ...	4	0	0
„ „ —Interest on Mrs. Gailey's donation	0	10	9
„ „ —Rev. Ezekiel Teaz (1st instalment), ...	2	0	0
„ „ —Rev. J. M. Littlejohn (1st instalment), ...	2	0	0
„ „ —Rev. J. Ramsay (1st instalment), ...	2	0	0
„ „ —Rev. S. R. M'Neilly (1st instalment), ...	2	0	0
	£63	1	3

Dr. TREASURER'S ACCOUNT. Cr.

	£	s.	d.
Amount received, ...	63	1	3
	£63	1	3

	£	s.	d.
Meetings of Committee, ..	3	5	0
Printing Account of 1885, ..	1	7	6
Deputations, ...	5	0	6
Working and Incidental Expenses, ...	0	13	3
	£10	6	3

LETTER FROM SYNOD IN IRELAND.

Londonderry, 11th May, 1887.

DEAR BRETHREN—Your welcome and highly-valued letter of last year did not arrive in time to be read during the sessions of our Synod. It reached us, however, very soon afterwards, and was published in our Magazine, so that our people have all been cheered and encouraged by reading it. We regard these interchanges of brotherly sentiment, conveyed from you to us and from us to you by annual letter, as a great boon, and as means of binding us more closely together in the holy alliance into which we have entered, in order to conserve the honour of our King, and advance His glory on the earth.

We are stirred up to greater zeal in maintaining the good old cause when we are assured of the cordial sympathy and moral support of our beloved brethren in the far West. Gladly we once again embrace the opportunity to send you our warm greetings, and to express our strong wishes for your welfare and prosperity.

We need scarcely say that we take the deepest interest in everything that in any way concerns you. We are bound to you by very strong ties. We have sent you our sons and our daughters. In not a few cases the numbers of members of our congregations, who have gone to your side of the Atlantic, equals or exceeds the number that remains with us. Very few of us there are who have no tie of earthly relationship binding us to the great American continent. The bonds also of our ecclesiastical relationship are very strong. We stand side by side on the same platform, holding the same views in regard to what is demanded of us, in keeping faith with our King, Christ. We are one in our estimate of what is meant by fighting under the banner inscribed "For Christ's crown and covenant." We agree in pleading for the recognition by the governments of earth, of the paramount claims of the Redeemer and His law, and we are watchers together, each on our own side of the great ocean, for the dawning of the day that shall witness the resurrection of mighty principles from the grave in which the selfishness and apathy of men have buried them. The vision of glory and success will come, it will not tarry, if we only wait for it; and part of the glory of it will be the portion and reward of those who have watched and waited in faithful loyalty and devoted service.

In taking a retrospect of the past year there have been some events on account of which we, as a church, have good reason to thank God and take courage; there have been also a few occurrences that suggest solemn reflections. Our ministerial ranks have not been thinned by death, and not one of our ministers has been laid aside from public work and usefulness. Three young men, all of great promise, have been ordained to the office of the ministry, and appointed to the pastoral oversight of congregations. Our Presbyteries have licensed four young men to preach the Gospel, making the number of our licentiates larger than ever it was before. God is putting it into the hearts of the sons of the church to consecrate themselves to the glorious

work of spreading the Saviour's renowned fame. Just now we cannot but be impressed with feelings of gratitude to God for his seasonable care in making provision for our Church, by additions to the number of those who are engaged in the ministry, especially in view of the fact, which we mention with pain and regret, that recently two of our ordained ministers, both highly esteemed, have severed their connection with us and entered other communions.

Our Mission in Syria prospers. The mission schools never were more largely attended, and the members of our staff of teachers are all efficient and thoroughly devoted. We are happy to be able to say that, after considerable delay, we have at last got our mission buildings in Antioch completed. Dr. Martin has moved into his house and finds it very accommodating and in every way suitable. We have cause of thankfulness to the Most High that, while in many places in Syria, mission work has been interfered with by the Turkish government, and while we are very sorry to find you also are suffering in consequence of the closing of some of your schools, we have as yet been unmolested. We desire to convey to you our sympathy with you in your trials, and we pray that you may soon, by the good hand of God upon you, be brought out of them. God can make the wrath of man to praise him, and the remainder of the wrath He can restrain.

We wish you God-speed in your National Reform work—a work courageously undertaken and vigorously prosecuted. We rejoice to see that your hand is not slackening in this good work. We are convinced that your labour shall not be in vain. Success will yet crown your efforts; and in the day when those who have spoken a loud and earnest word to bring the King back, shall be rewarded, you will receive no small share of the distinguished honour. You and we may have to wait long for that day, and our eyes may fail with looking, but certainty it will come. The grand moment will come when the heavenly voices shall say, as the peal of the angel's trumpet dies away—"The Kingdom of the world is become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ."

The aspect of public affairs in this nation is not very encouraging, and the outlook is not very bright. The movement to obtain what is called "Home Rule" for Ireland has received a check in the meantime, but it may be revived. Agitators, whose love for their country is very questionable, will not rest. It is by agitation they make their bread; and there is a strong suspicion with many, that a final settlement of the question is not their aim. They have undoubtedly been in alliance with men whose record is very dark, and it is their own open declaration, that their wish is to make the government of Ireland by England impossible. Many right-minded men and true patriots believe that the success of these so-called leaders of the Irish nation would signify the arrest of all progress, social, political, and religious, in the land, if not class oppression. What is coming on our unhappy country we know not. Perhaps God is arising to punish Britain for her perfidious breaches of covenant. Perhaps Romanism which Britain, to her utter shame and disgrace, has fostered and

cherished, is to be made the instrument of sore chastisement to the infatuated people. We cannot tell. But one comfort is, that, amid all earthly changes and commotions, "God reigneth." He will keep in safety His own, while he dashes in pieces His enemies, or makes them the instruments of their mutual destruction.

We would be more hopeful in regard to the future, if statesmen seemed actuated by disinterested and purely patriotic motives, if they were more for their country and not so much for party, place and power. It is sad to think that, while burning questions are pressing for solution, the war of party goes on, as men on the opposite sides of the houses of legislature are watching for opportunity to oust each other. Often to get the government out of office seems to be of far greater importance than the fair settlement of a great question. The Irish question has for generations been made the battle-ground for Whig and Tory, in which the contending parties have appeared to be looking solely to themselves, without any desire to right the wrongs of Ireland.

As long as it is so there will be no solution, agitation will succeed agitation, and our unhappy country will be made the prey of self-seeking adventurers. Many remedies are proposed for the distressing malady that is eating the life out of our people, but the true remedy has been entirely lost sight of by the majority, or put on one side. It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ received into the heart, and exercising its influence on the life of our fellow-countrymen that will heal the woes of Ireland. Anything else while this is wanting will make the disease worse instead of better. The leaves of the Tree of Life are for the healing of the nations.

Praying that peace may be within the walls, and prosperity within the palaces of your Zion, and that the good hand of our God may be with you in all your undertakings, we remain, Dear Brethren, on behalf of our Synod,

Yours, in covenant bonds,

R. Nevin, *Synod's Clerk.*
J. D. Houston, *Assistant Clerk.*

LETTER TO SYNOD IN IRELAND.

Newburgh, N. Y., June 6, 1887.

To the Moderator and Members of the R. P. Synod, Ireland—

Dear Brethren—Your welcome letter, bearing date 11th May last, has been received, and read with pleasure. We are pleased to hear from those that are bound to us by so many ties, and would not willingly forego the enjoyment arising out of our annual correspondence. If you feel encouraged in your efforts to maintain and propagate time-honoured and Scriptural principles by the consciousness of our "sympathy and moral support," we can assure you that we are no less aided in our work by the knowledge that a courageous little band of

brethren has never yet allowed the good old flag to touch the ground in islands of the sea. Brethren, your defeat would distress us, while your success would be to us "like life from the dead."

In your retrospect of the year we are pleased to note God's graciousness to you in not only sparing your lives, but in blessing you with such health that no one had even briefly to withdraw his hand from labours in the vineyard; and it is with peculiar satisfaction that we hear of the number of your recent and happy settlements, and the promise of others in the near future. It is indeed an unmistakable token for good when God, in answer to prayer, sends shepherds to his flock who will feed them after his own heart. The winnowing process of which you speak in this connection, and of which we too might complain, excites regret. It is sad to part with brethren beloved who have not gained the crown, but the sorrow must be confined to personal considerations. The incident throws no shadow of a doubt on the issue of the conflict. Our Great Captain, like every other captain, must be permitted to select his men; he alone judges unerringly of fitness for the post, and when he removes one here and another there, we must believe it to be for the best interests of the cause He has pledged Himself to carry forward with success.

If we mistake not an ally may soon come to you from an unexpected quarter. Your little island home has been disturbed for generations by a restless skeleton in the closet. Using a common Yankee privilege we "rather guess" the head of it could be found in Rome. "Home Rule," sounds well, and some who can only examine local matters at a distance of three thousand miles, may be ready to accept it as a necessary and just measure. We note your cautiousness and hesitation in speaking of its beneficent results. If it should come, and Romanism be given full sway, it will be but the beginning of the end. It will call Britain's attention more forcibly than your quiet but earnest dissent has ever done to covenants long and deeply dishonoured, but which were once her hope and strength when struggling with this same foe. The end you seek cannot be gained in this way without suffering to the children, and distress of nations; but in just such ways are God's people punished for remissness in duty, and the wrath of man made to praise him. Our hope is—"The Lord God omnipotent reigneth," and He will yet take the heathen for His heritage, and the utmost parts of the earth for His possession.

We rejoice with you in the success of your mission work in Syria. We have always regarded you as friends and brethren, though geographically far removed from us, but in Syria we are also permitted to speak of you as neighbours. There we clasp hands in the Master's vineyard, and we cordially bid you God-speed in your efforts; and trust you may reap as rich a reward from those in your home field as we have from ours there in our home field.

As a part of the intention of this letter is that "ye may know our affairs," we note a few facts gathered from reports submitted to this Synod on the more important branches of our church work.

The chair in our Theological Seminary, made vacant by the death

of Dr. Sloane, has been filled by the choice of Rev. J. K. M'Clurkin, of Philadelphia.

Geneva College had an attendance the past year of 168 students, of which 118 were in the regular classes; has a full corps of professors, and an endowment of 150,000 dollars.

The growth of the Southern Mission has made it necessary to appoint another ministerial labourer in that field. Last fall the Board appointed Rev. H. W. Reed, Principal of Knox Academy, in place of Rev. G. M. Elliott, who resigned, that he might give his whole time to ministerial work. The work continues to increase, and new stations are springing up all over Alabama, which call for more labourers to cultivate them. The congregation at Semla has seventy-seven members, and a Sabbath-school of 150. Knox Academy has 500 pupils; from this School young men and women are going out to labour in response to urgent calls from this fruitful and promising field.

Perhaps never before has there been a greater or more effective effort put forth in our National Reform work. Seven agents have been in the field the greater part of the year. Some of them have visited the South, and reported it ready to receive the great principles of the Gospel that pertain to national salvation. The sum of 3,600 dollars has been raised for the work. This marks the highest point yet reached in a single year. Three million pages of literature have been distributed, more than a thousand sermons and addresses delivered, and a short course of lectures given in thirty-five colleges during the year. This will give you a fair idea of the condition and progress of the work.

Our Foreign Mission is still prosperous, and retains its hold on the faith and patronage of our people. The contributions last year reached the sum of 16,691 dols. and 15c.; this is 2,561 dols. in excess of the contributions of last year. The interruption experienced by Turkish experience has been in part removed, and less annoyance is expected from this source in the future.

Since last Synod, Dr. J. M. Balph has been appointed Medical Missionary to Latakiyeh, and Miss Joseph, of Hopkinton, Iowa, sent out to augment the working force. The Committee on Foreign Mission at this Synod recommend that two ordained ministers be sent out, one to Latakiyeh and the other to Tarsus, and also an additional lady teacher. These are indications pointing to the spread of the cause in that foreign field, for which we thank God and take courage.

The condition of the church at home, financially and spiritually, is measurably prosperous, and in response to God's blessing resting upon us there are earnest inquiries among our people as to the ways and means to enlarge the field of our labour. The times are auspicious and promise a grand awakening soon. The opposition of the enemy was perhaps never more pointed or vigorous, but it is of such a character as to provoke resistance on the part of God's people, and let this be but once aroused and the end is near. Soon shall blessed voices be heard in heaven saying—"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ."

Brethren beloved, we rejoice with you that our lot has fallen in these times, and pray God that he may enable us and you to meet our obligations faithfully, and live and labour to the praise of His glorious grace.

Wishing you "grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

We remain, yours in covenant bonds,

D. M'Fall,
Wm. J. Sproull,
J. M. Wylie,
R. J. Patterson,
J. B. Caskey,
} *Committee.*